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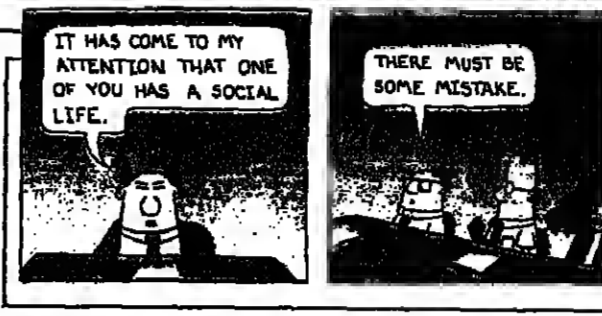
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World stocks reel from Thursday mayhem Page 11

The Million-Woman March Page 5



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Yatom, deputy expected to get warning letters

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN The Ciechanover Committee, which is probing the abortive attempt to assassinate in Jordan Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal, is expected to issue warning letters to Mossad head Danny Yatom and H. Yatom's unofficial deputy and head of Mossad operations, Channel 1 reported.

The report came from veteran journalist Amnon Abramowitz, who is considered particularly well-informed on Israel's intelligence community in general, and the Mossad in particular. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who testified before the committee on Friday, reportedly gave full backing to Yatom.

The assassins reportedly were supposed to have masqueraded as actors in a street theater. They were to have staged a performance near Mashaal and then gotten close enough to clandestinely "brush" him with a toxin that would have killed him days, or even a week later, the TV said.

But a Hamas activist who witnessed the event caught up with them and together with a passing off-duty Jordanian policeman succeeded in detaining the Mossad agents, the TV said.

According to the report, it was not even certain whether the toxin would have killed Mashaal even if the operation had proceeded smoothly, since the substance, which had been tested only on animals, did not always result in their deaths.

But spokesman Shai Bazak told Israel Radio that it appeared that Friday's appearance would be Netanyahu's "first and last testimony."

2 soldiers hurt in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE Two IDF soldiers were wounded - one seriously - during heavy fighting in south Lebanon early yesterday morning. The previous day, Golani soldiers ambushed and killed three gunmen, apparently from Islamic Jihad.



US maneuvers in Egypt An Egyptian armored personnel carrier is unloaded from an air-cushioned American landing craft at Red Beach, 100 kilometers west of Alexandria yesterday, during "Bright Star 97" maneuvers by the US, Egypt, Great Britain, France, Italy, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

Primakov visit to focus on Iran

By JAY BUSHINSKY Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov's visit here today and tomorrow is expected to focus on the threat to regional stability posed by his country's involvement in Iran's missile buildup.

Holy Trinity Monastery last June, expelling the clergy affiliated with the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia and handing it over to the Moscow Patriarchate.

Sec.-Lt. Eran Halperin was in serious but stable condition in Haifa's Rambam Hospital last night. He and the other wounded soldier, both from the Golani Brigade, were part of an infantry unit that was on duty near the Rehan outpost in the security zone's northeastern sector late Friday night.

Mordechai seeking to take lead in compromise effort on Likud primaries

By SARAH HONG Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai plans to get all Likud ministers to adopt a unified, "synthesis" stance on whether or not to abandon party primaries.

The Likud arena is expected to heat up this week as the convention steering committee begins its deliberations. The primaries' fate is due to come up before the party convention on November 9.

Uzi Landau has proposed the convention drop the primaries. Landau maintains that the current system "will make it impossible for anyone who is not rich or famous to compete successfully and achieve realistic placing on the list of Knesset candidates."

Mordechai: stick to Wrath

Earlier, on Friday night, warplanes struck Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command underground base in Nuemeh, south of Beirut. The IDF spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits and that in both cases all planes returned safely to their bases.

Meanwhile, on Friday afternoon, another Golani unit killed three gunmen in an ambush on the perimeter of the security zone.

The proposal was first made by veteran anti-primaries campaigner MK Uzi Landau, who has put it on the agenda for the Likud convention, which meets next month.

Landau is widely respected across the political spectrum, and is generally seen as impelled by a sense of principle. Still, whatever Landau sets in motion can affect the fortunes of other players in the Likud arena.

A tale of vested interests

Some in the Likud stand to gain by a prospective retreat from the primaries, while the fortunes of others could become decidedly more vulnerable.

Both sides have an interest in trying to enlist the prime minister's support, or at least in obtaining assurances that he won't throw his weight behind the opposing view.

Those whose interests are bound to the primaries fear that convention delegates will jump at the chance to return the clout of electing the party's Knesset list to the 3,000-member central committee, since convention delegates come from the central committee.

5 killed in Ayalon crash

Five people were killed and five others injured before dawn Friday, when a car crashed into a semi-trailer parked near the Hashalom exit on the Ayalon expressway, then ricocheted back onto the road where it was struck by the car behind it.

The five killed were: Gila Pelah, 21, and her brother, Yaniv, 23, both of Netanya; Inbal Boaron, 17, of Netanya; Maya Twizer, 21, of Bat Yam; and Charlie Shetreet, 23, of Netanya.

Winning cards

In yesterday's first day of drawing, the winning numbers were the king of clubs, the queen of diamonds, and the ace of spades.

budget

Following three years of budget deficits, the government is expected to reduce the deficit to 1.4% of GDP.

Mordechai: stick to Wrath

According to reports, Mordechai has been critical of the Likud's stance on the primaries, arguing that it is necessary to stick to the Wrath.

See LEBANON, Page 2



**NEWS**

*in brief*

**Barak meets with Abbas**

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak met last night with Palestinian Authority official Mahmoud Abbas at Kochav Yair. The two discussed the planned meeting between Abbas and Foreign Minister David Levy, Israeli Radio reported.

*Jerusalem Post Staff*

**Haredim stone car on Rehov Bar-Ilan**

Haredim stoned a car driving down Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday, lightly wounding its two occupants. After being treated at a Magen David Adom station, the two filed a complaint with police. Meretz Party leader Yossi Sarid and Meretz city council member Ornan Yekutieli said they are considering petitioning the High Court of Justice over the incident, as the car was traveling on the street at a time it was open to traffic.

*Itim*

**Foreign worker stabbed in Old City**

A Yugoslav national was stabbed and lightly wounded yesterday in Jerusalem's Old City while wearing a cap inscribed "IDF" police said.

Police said the man, in his mid-30s, was approached by a young Palestinian man who asked him to remove the army-style cap, but he apparently did not understand. The Palestinian then stabbed him and fled. Police said the victim is a foreign worker, doing construction jobs in Netanya and Eilat, and that he was treated for a minor stab wound. Three suspects were picked up for questioning, police said.

*AP*

**Peace Now protests Netanyahu slur**

Hundreds demonstrated last night outside the Prime Minister's residence in a protest sponsored by Peace Now against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks last week that "leftists have forgotten what it is to be Jews."

*Itim*

**NI, Income Tax workers renew sanctions**

Income Tax Authority and National Insurance Institute workers are to renew work sanctions today. Workers will not receive the public or answer telephones.

*Itim*

**Firebombs, stones thrown at troops**

Scores of Palestinians threw stones at IDF troops guarding Rachel's Tomb near Bethlehem yesterday afternoon. The IDF Spokesman said troops used gas and rubber bullets to disperse the rioters, and there were no injuries.

Last night two firebombs were thrown at IDF troops near Tel Rumeida in Hebron; on Friday evening three firebombs were thrown at Israeli vehicles in the Kalkilya area; and on Thursday night a pipe bomb was thrown at IDF troops near the Yakobia School in Hebron. No one was injured in any of the incidents and no damage was reported.

*Margot Dudkevitch*

**LEBANON**

*Continued from Page 1*

Military sources in Northern Command said the ambush was part of the IDF's ongoing policy to hit terrorists as far as possible from Israel's border. The sources stressed that such operations would continue in the security zone, on its northern perimeter and beyond.

Initially, it was believed that the gunmen killed were from Hizbullah. Afterwards, however, Islamic Jihad claimed in Beirut that its members had been involved in an operation in that area.

Ramadan Abdallah Salah, a leader of Islamic Jihad, said the

operation was in revenge for the assassination of the group's former head, Fathi Shkaki, in Malta two years ago. Salah, who spoke at a congress in Beirut attended also by Hizbullah and Hamas representatives, said Islamic Jihad was working to liberate all of Palestine.

Fighting continued in south Lebanon yesterday morning with a Hizbullah mortar attack on an IDF position in the security zone's western sector.

Some damage was caused to the outpost, but there were no casualties. IDF gunners returned fire.

There were also long-range attacks launched against SLA outposts in the security zone over the weekend, none causing any casualties or damage.

**IDF inquiry: Soldier played with rocket that killed him**

**By ARNEH O'SULLIVAN**

The army said Friday that the 18-year-old soldier who died 11 days ago when an anti-tank rocket lodged inside his body had been "playing" with it.

The soldier, Ariel Shane, was the son of Ruth and Paul Shane of Beerseba, who made aliyah from the US in the mid-1970s.

Shane was said to be a conscientious, very disciplined soldier, who was marked for a tank commanders' course. The IDF inquiry into the October 15 incident was headed by a colonel and submitted its findings to OC Central Command Major Gen. Uzi Dayan.

According to the findings, the army put the direct cause of the accident on Shane, saying he had been playing with the LAW anti-tank rocket while he was guarding the ammunition bunker on his Jordan Valley Armored Corps base.

The inquiry also said Shane was a "good and disciplined" soldier.

The army said Dayan has since ordered stricter storage procedures for explosives and ammunition to reduce the possibility of playing with them.

He also ordered soldiers be lectured against playing with weapons or ammunition.

Sources said the missile storage facility on the base was locked, but

that there were at least half a dozen defective missiles, including an opened LAW rocket, in open crates outside the bunker.

Prior to the accident, base commanders were warned the ammunition storage area was not safe.

The Shane family heard of the inquiry results from the radio.

"The army didn't even have the minimum courtesy to inform the family of the inquiry results and they had to hear it from the radio," said one source. "They are going to pin everything on a dead 18-year-old. But if I were the army I wouldn't have allowed an opened, defective missile not to be held under lock and key."

The LAW missile is used by infantry; armor recruits like Shane are not trained on the missile and are not familiar with its operation.

Shane had been taken to a hospital in an IAF helicopter while the live missile was still lodged in his body, but the inquiry found nothing wrong with this, nor with the medical treatment he received.

After failing to resuscitate Shane, doctors at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem moved his body to a parking lot, where they guided sappers as they removed the 50-centimeter-long missile.

The IDF Spokesman said the Military Police is continuing its investigation of the accident.



**Palestinian protesters call for release of prisoners**

Border police hold back Palestinians protesting for the release of Palestinian prisoners and improved prison conditions yesterday in Jerusalem. Protests also were staged in Hebron, Bethlehem and Nablus, where protesters marched to the offices of the International Red Cross and presented a letter asking the organization to help them in their quest for the prisoners' freedom. There were reports that two protesters were wounded in clashes with security forces in Bethlehem.

*(Reuters)*

**UN: Few countries want debate on West Bank, Gaza**

**By MARILYN HENRY**

NEW YORK - Only a minority of the parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, which bars settlement in occupied territory, appears to favor holding a conference on enforcing the convention in Israeli-held areas, according to a UN report.

Dore Gold, Israel's ambassador to the UN, has assailed plans for a conference, saying none has been held since the Geneva

Convention was adopted in 1949. For example, he said, the UN shunned such conferences regarding conflicts in Vietnam and Afghanistan.

The report by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, which was released Tuesday, came in response to a resolution that was adopted in July by an emergency session of the General Assembly. The resolution, which passed 131-3, recommended that UN members "actively discourage" Israeli settlement-building in

occupied territories.

The resolution also recommended holding a conference on the Fourth Geneva Convention to enforce international rules for the protection of civilians in wartime, referring to Palestinians in Israeli-held territory, including Jerusalem. Israel, the US, and Micronesia voted against the resolution.

The emergency session was convened, first in April and again in July, after the US twice thwarted Security Council resolutions that

would have condemned Israel for the building project on Har Homa.

Twenty-nine of the 188 parties to the Geneva Convention favor holding a conference to discuss its application in territories occupied by Israel, said Annan's report, which was based on information provided by the observer Swiss government, which canvassed the parties. Only 53 states sent written replies, 29 of which were in favor of convening a conference, the Swiss said, without identifying the countries.

**Strains reported in US-Egypt ties over cooperation with Israel**

**By DOUGLAS DAVIS**

LONDON - A strain in relations between Washington and Cairo - described by some Arab commentators as a "crisis" - has reportedly been caused by US pressure on Egypt to engage in three-way security cooperation involving Israel.

The London-based Arabic newsweekly *Al-Wasat* reported this week that Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak is also uneasy about Washington's nomination of Daniel Kurtzer, a Yeshiva University graduate, to replace Edward Walker as ambassador to Cairo.

Mubarak charged last week that the CIA was putting pressure on him to release Azzam Azzam, an Israeli convicted of spying. He claimed that Egyptian agents were accused of abducting a prominent Libyan dissident in 1993 and turning him over for execution.

Mubarak counter-charged that North Korea's former ambassador to Cairo, who defected to the United States in August, was mysteriously spirited out of the country by the Americans.

And, Mubarak reportedly suggested, the Americans may have done the same to Libyan dissident, Mansour al-Kikhia, who went missing in the Egyptian capital four years ago.

"After the Azzam crisis, [the Americans] began raising other strange issues, too," Mubarak complained. "How can there be friendship [between us] when every now and then they raise another issue against us?" he asked.

Mubarak also alleged there were attempts to sideline Egypt's role in the peace process and

countered that without Egypt "peace cannot proceed."

In its Cairo-dated report, *Al-Wasat* reported that the crisis in US-Egypt relations was likely to worsen, citing an exchange of strongly worded messages between US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa.

Albright reportedly warned that Washington would view an Egyptian boycott of next month's Middle East and North African economic conference in Doha - or its participation at less than foreign minister level - as a serious mistake.

According to the weekly, Cairo recently turned down several requests from Washington for cooperation in fighting terrorism and striving to curb the proliferation of long-range missiles.

The US reportedly showed its irritation in media reports accusing Egypt of breaching UN sanctions against Libya, of playing an obstructive role in the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, of acquiring Scud missiles from North Korea, and discriminating against the Coptic Christian minority.

There have also reportedly been suggestions that the US might cut its annual \$2 billion aid package to Egypt.

The dispute, *Al-Wasat* said, was likely to exacerbate by Kurtzer's nomination to replace Walker, who has been named ambassador to Israel. Kurtzer is currently the acting assistant secretary for intelligence and research.

Kurtzer is regarded as an architect of the concept of securing Washington's interests in the Middle East by expanding NATO and tightening blockades on Iran, Libya and Iraq to make it easier

for Washington to promote the peace process.

Kurtzer, according to *Al-Wasat*, contributed to formulating this doctrine at the start of Clinton's second term, along with National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, Secretary Albright and Defense Secretary William Cohen - all of whom the paper mistakenly identifies as Jews.

The paper also charges that Kurtzer coordinated efforts to spirit the former North Korean ambassador out of Cairo, taking with him files regarding cooperation between Pyongyang and Middle Eastern countries on long-range Scud missiles.

Clinton, it added, announced Kurtzer's nomination after Israel received information that Washington gleaned from the North Korean envoy's files.

More importantly, reported *Al-Wasat*, Kurtzer is in charge of implementing a US-Israeli security pact on combating terrorism and safeguarding Israeli security. The agreement was drawn up by Clinton and the Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres in Jerusalem a day after the Sharm al-Sheikh anti-terrorism summit in March 1996.

Washington's recent request to turn the agreement into a three-way pact, was unacceptable to Cairo, *Al-Wasat* said.

The agreement provides for cooperation and the exchange of intelligence between the United States and Israel on surface-to-surface missiles, sophisticated conventional weapons and non-conventional weapons, as well as terrorism.

Mubarak said at a meeting with army chiefs in Ismailiya last week that Egypt would not accept "pressures and arm-twisting."

**PA slammed for ban on visiting prisoners**

**By STEVE RODAN**

A human rights group said yesterday the Palestinian Authority is preventing attorneys from visiting clients held in the facility operated by the PA General Intelligence Service (GIS), despite a Palestinian High Court order.

The general director of LAW, the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Khaled Shkirat, said he was told this on Thursday by GIS chief Col. Tawfiq Tirawi.

"I tried to speak to him using quiet diplomacy," he said. "I explained the obstacles and he said nobody in your organization can visit and you can do what you want."

Shkirat said Tirawi informed him of the ban after LAW's nine attorneys and staffers were for four months denied permission to visit clients held in the colonel's prisons. The attorney said LAW represents 30 detainees being held in Tirawi's facilities, about 30 percent of those now imprisoned by the GIS.

The group said Shkirat was threatened last February by Tirawi after the attorney tried to see his client in a GIS facility.

The latest case where LAW was unable to visit a detainee was in the arrest on September 23 of Mahmoud Muslih.

Muslih, a 56-year-old teacher, was one of about 100 suspected Hamas activists arrested in the PA crackdown on the Islamic organization in September.

LAW said that the ban is a violation of the legal rights guaranteed by Palestinian law that attorneys are allowed to visit

their clients.

The group called for a letter-writing campaign to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, Attorney-General Fayeze Abu Rahme, and Justice Minister Freih Abu Meiden.

The group said it has not succeeded in convincing Abu Rahme and other officials to take action.

On September 29, the Palestinian High Court demanded an explanation from Abu Rahme for the arrest and continued detention of Muslih.

Shkirat said earlier this month the court ruled that Muslih's attorney can be allowed to visit his client, but Tirawi has ignored the decision.

Other human rights activists disputed Shkirat's assertion and said the High Court never made such a ruling. They said Abu Rahme has not yet responded to the court's demand to explain Muslih's arrest.

The High Court, however, has refused a similar appeal.

On October 6, the court in Gaza ruled that it had no jurisdiction in the case of Fathi Subuh, a professor of Al-Azhar University, arrested on July 2 and held since then without charges.

Subuh was arrested after he gave his students a test which included questions regarding corruption in the university and the PA.

The High Court classified Subuh a security prisoner and said that jurisdiction lies with the State Security Court, established in 1995 as a tool for fighting terrorism.

A spokesman for Tirawi said the colonel was not available for comment.

**AMIT** greets the delegates to the Healthy Cities Project Conference  
**WELCOME TO AMIT BEIT HAYELED - GILO!**  
 Mazal Tov to Batya Waschitz, Conference Coordinator

**LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense**  
**CEREMONY RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE PETAH TIKVA "TEAM"**

"LIBI" THE FUND FOR STRENGTHENING ISRAEL'S DEFENCE recently held a ceremony to express appreciation for the members of "Zevet" in Petah Tikva, headed by Mr. Benny Friedman, which organized a successful fund raising evening in aid of the "LIBI" Fund for Education in Israel's Defence Forces. The affair was held at the Gan Halotus Halls in Petah Tikva, and donated by Mr. Zeev Armer. The Chairman of Libi, Major General (reserves) Danny Matt expressed thanks and presented a gift to Mr. Benny Friedman and Mr. Zeev Armer.



Picture (left to right): David Avri, member of the "Zevet" Board; Benny Friedman, Chairman of "Zevet" Petah Tikva; Major General (res.) Danny Matt, Chairman of Libi; Zeev Armer and Yashov Kir, David Tid, members of the Board of "Zevet"; Major Dron Rosenfarb-Gold; Colonel Meir Blak, Commander of the "Libi" Fund.

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense  
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# Thousands of US black women rally for rights

PHILADELPHIA - Thousands of black women marched through Philadelphia yesterday in a massive show of unity against inadequate health care, poor education, high unemployment and crime.

The Million Woman March brought women by the busload from across the United States for a daylong program of prayer, music and inspirational speeches, intended as a catalyst for positive change in black communities.

Modeled on the Million Man March in Washington two years ago, the rally represented a first for black women, many of whom say they have been at the bottom of the social totem pole since their arrival in America as slaves centuries ago.

The rally's chief organizers, two ordinary women from South Philadelphia, said it was important for black grandmothers, aunts, sisters, nieces and daughters to come together in a mood of solidarity.

"Black women have been the epitome of strength in this country," said Phile Chionese, who co-founded the Million Woman

March last year with her friend Asia Coney, a local housing activist.

"We want to prepare our women, no matter what their status in life, to look at how we can begin to invest as black women and how we can begin to vote in blocs as black women."

The Million Man March had the support of a number of male civil rights luminaries including Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

But Chionese and Coney bypassed the established circuits of black influence in America, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and relied on the organizing powers of local community leaders like themselves.

Their strategy showed the first signs of success late on Friday, when tens of thousands of women began arriving at Philadelphia hotels from as far away as California.

"We [black women] have a history of doing the impossible," Coney said.

City officials prepared for up to 700,000 women, while organiz-

ers expected more than one million to attend.

Winoia Mandela, former wife of South African President Nelson Mandela, and Democratic

Congresswoman Maxine Waters of California will speak. Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King, widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, bowed out months ago.

The thrust of the march is a call for improved education and health care in black communities, economic and political solidarity among black women and an easier transition to mainstream life for black women inmates.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said Friday that US President Bill Clinton "applauds people who, in that spirit, gather together to celebrate both their faith and their commitment."

"But, at the same time, that doesn't mean that he necessarily subscribes to everything that every march or every event lists as part of its agenda," McCurry said. (Reuters, AP)



A lone sign is seen in a crowd of hundreds of thousands who attended the Million Woman March in Philadelphia yesterday, a daylong event to muster solidarity for black women's causes. (AP)

## US, China reach agreement on ending nuclear cooperation with Iran

By R. JEFFREY SMITH

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration has reached a last-minute agreement with China to limit its arms exports to Iran and end significant nuclear cooperation with that country, clearing the way for President Clinton at a summit next week to approve the first export of advanced US nuclear reactor technology to China, senior US officials said.

The breakthrough came Wednesday, after months of often difficult negotiations, when Chinese officials provided what one of the officials called "very firm, clear and explicit assurances" that Beijing will no longer assist Iran in developing its civilian nuclear power program, the officials said Friday.

Washington, which is worried that Iran is using the civilian program as a cover to develop the expertise for making nuclear arms, had made the cutoff of Chinese assistance a key condition for allowing the potential sale to China of billions of dollars worth of US nuclear reactors and related technology.

But Washington had also sought to use the prospect of a nuclear deal at the summit as

leverage to compel Beijing to halt its sale of cruise missiles to Iran and to curtail its transfers of technologies and equipment needed to make ballistic missiles and chemical arms. On these matters, China has offered the administration positive but less clear-cut assurances, the officials said.

The nuclear deal worked out this week by White House and State Department officials in Beijing must gain the formal approval of both President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, something that is expected shortly, officials noted. As a result, they said, the deal will likely become a centerpiece of the summit meeting the two presidents are to hold next week.

The sale of US nuclear technology would bring enormous financial benefit to the United States - the Chinese market has been estimated at roughly \$50 billion over the next two decades - and it would help China ease its growing energy shortage. But it has recently been depicted by officials from both countries as a symbol of a new and closer relationship, not just a matter of commerce.

For Washington, it would be tantamount to

saying that China - which has been barred from receiving US technology since the mid-1980s due to US concerns that it was aiding the spread of weapons of mass destruction - has earned the right to better treatment.

For Beijing, it would amount to a statement that solidifying trade ties with Washington are more important than keeping up an existing supply arrangement with a key Middle East ally.

The deal is nonetheless expected to attract controversy on Capitol Hill, where some lawmakers are already saying that Chinese promises made under the pressure of a deadline should not be trusted.

China is accused by many arms control experts of having selectively ignored proliferation constraints to gain profits or maintain political ties to countries such as Iran, Pakistan, and North Korea - although administration officials say their record has lately become much better.

One of the US criteria was that China clearly cease its nuclear assistance to Iran, leaving only Russia as a major supplier of nuclear equipment to a country that Washington deems a key instigator of terrorism. (The Washington Post)

## EU debates expansion plans

By JEFFREY ULBRICH

MONDORF-LES-BAINS, Luxembourg (AP) - All 15 European Union nations agree that a new round of expansion should begin next year, but foreign ministers struggled here yesterday with the problem of where to start.

The European Commission gave its opinion last summer. It favors beginning negotiations early next year with six countries - Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus.

While a majority of the EU's existing members go along with that, some, notably Sweden, Denmark and Greece, believe talks should begin with all 11 countries who have been declared eligible. Those are the Commission's six plus Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Some call this the "regatta" method, letting all the candidates charge off from the same starting line, allowing them to race at their own pace and effectively determine their own selection.

"That's important for psychological reasons," Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen said during a break in the two-day informal ministerial meeting at this leafy Luxembourg spa. Those left out, he said, "would feel humiliated ... and excluded." Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini agreed nobody must feel left behind.

"If you don't start negotiations with all countries at the same time, you need an instrument to keep all these countries together," he said. One way to do this, he said, is to create a special annual conference bringing all of the countries - the "ins" and the "outs" - together.

Details of how the conference might work were being debated. Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel of Germany said he favored the Commission approach of beginning negotiations with a limited number of countries. "There is no majority for the regatta model," he said.

Neither was Bonn enthusiastic about the proposal. "Germany has not yet agreed to the idea of such a conference," Kinkel said.

Some still worry that countries not included in the first wave of negotiations would suffer economically because foreign investors would doubt their stability. Others maintain non-selection would hamper the process of political reform in the newly emerging democracies of Eastern Europe.

Then there is the question of Turkey, already an associate member of the EU and linked to the European bloc by a special customs union that allows Ankara to trade with the EU under virtually the same conditions as members.

France is one of Turkey's biggest backers. Germany and Greece adamantly oppose Turkish membership. "We must keep Turkey within the process," said Dini.

"Turkey knows it has a long way to go in certain areas to come up to the standards of the European Union. It can't go as fast as the other countries." The final decision on expansion rests in the hands of EU chiefs of state and government, who will make up their minds at a summit in December.

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## Bus crash in S. Africa kills 33

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK

DURBAN (AP) - A bus carrying women and children to a political meeting in eastern South Africa crashed into a disabled gasoline tanker yesterday, setting off an explosion that killed 33 people.

The women were members of the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party Women's Brigade from Port Shepstone on the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal province, Inkatha spokesman Hennie Bekker said.

They were heading to Ulundi, in the north, when their bus smashed into a tanker that had stopped on a bridge over the Tugela River, approximately 80 kilometers north of Durban, Bekker said.

Fire engulfed both vehicles, burning most of the victims beyond recognition.

"I could see people burning in the bus," traffic officer Basil Naidoo said.

Thirty-three people died and 10 were hospitalized with serious injuries, provincial transportation spokeswoman Ranjeni Mumsamy said.

Police said at least five of the dead were believed to be children, based on the size of skulls found on the bus.

Transportation officials declared a week of mourning in KwaZulu-Natal province, asking motorists to drive with their lights on during the mourning period.

"We in [Inkatha] pray that the families and those injured will receive strength and courage and that the sorrow and wounds may eventually heal," Bekker said.

Other political parties immediately expressed sympathy over the accident, with the African National Congress, a longtime Inkatha rival in KwaZulu-Natal, and the Pan Africanist Congress saying it showed the need for improved road safety in South Africa.

## Where to stay in Israel

- ASHKELON HOTELS**
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## An old boys' club hangs on

The Commonwealth is an odd organization to make sense of for any foreigners who are not members. The concept is strange enough — a club, headed by Queen Elizabeth, for countries once ruled by the British Empire.

Why anyone would want to join may be a matter of curiosity for some, but the fact is that 54 states have joined, and their delegates gathered this weekend in Scotland's capital for the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference. They represent 1.7 billion people — from the 800 million of India to the 11,000 souls who inhabit Tuvalu. Those who are chucked out in the cold — such as Nigeria and Sierra Leone currently — get most upset about it.

The Commonwealth comes in for a fair share of derision — probably unfairly, for Francophone gatherings of former French colonies also sin by being pompous. Yet there is something of British Monty Python eccentricity about the Commonwealth — it is hard to imagine a club of former Ottoman or Roman vassals.

Still, despite it all, and some pretty rough times in the post-colonial era, the Commonwealth survives, and indeed this time round it even looks quite dapper.

There are family squabbles of course — unwelcome Nigeria threatened to turn up anyway, India and Britain are still smarting over a prickly royal tour of the subcontinent in the last couple of weeks, and the latest African dictatorship, Sierra Leone, has been banned.

The irrepressible Prime Minister Tony Blair stole the show again, as is becoming his habit, with a bouncy bid to kick the entire Commonwealth, heads first, into the 21st century. It's time everyone learned from history, instead of endlessly reliving it, Blair told a gathering which still has the musty air of Third World resentment hovering around it, though not to the same degree as that useless international fossil, the Non-aligned Movement.

The queen represents the dusty image of an older Commonwealth led by Britain, where the others supposedly knew their place. Having said recently the world is moving too fast for its people to follow, she inevitably looked bemused by the Blair extravaganza of an opening glossy video show with the bizarre title of *www.a young country@britain.gov* and a synthesizer-generated national anthem. Watched by the elite royalty, Blair announced that "the Britain of the elite is over," as he tried to move his era of renewal and redefinition out into the Commonwealth nations.

What it will all add up to in substance is anyone's guess. Once the cameras move out of Commonwealth conferences, the organization usually moves instantly back into the shadows.

The current meeting is likely to be no different. However, Blair's emphasis on the conference theme of trade and development is at least more feet-on-ground than the pompous old political fights over things the Commonwealth could do nothing about, such as the Cold War and colonial history. Obsessed with apartheid for most of its existence, the Commonwealth states only recently have faced up to many of their own serious democratic failings.

It is the first time Britain has hosted the conference in 20 years and the first labor prime minister in as long wanted a summit focused on trade. But politics will not go away so easily. Nigeria rightly remains suspended since the 1995 Commonwealth summit in New Zealand, when the military dictatorship executed nine political activists, including playwright and environmental campaigner, Ken Saro-Wiwa. Sierra Leone was dumped in May. The prime ministers of India and Pakistan yesterday discussed Kashmir, but there was no sign of rapprochement over the intransigent 50-year-old dispute. And Nelson Mandela's shiny image was somewhat tarnished by his coming to Scotland straight from Libya and the embraces of the obnoxious Muammar Gaddafi. The colonel's agents are wanted for bringing Pan Am 103 and its passengers down on the heads of Lockerbie's Scottish villagers.

Neither would the old habits of complaining rather than doing be so easily laid to rest. The meeting was taking place against a background of collapsing markets and currencies in the Asian region and the Commonwealth leaders spent two days castigating rampant market forces for their cruelty to emerging economies. These mutterings had to be glossed over yesterday for agreement on the prepared declaration of true faith in free trade and private investment. The statement said the Commonwealth can play "a dynamic role in promoting trade and investment to enhance prosperity, accelerate growth and development, and the eradication of poverty." It said the states would pursue the aims with vigor — but it all sounded a bit more hollow than it might have done six months ago when "vigor" was the middle name of Asian marketplaces.

However, it wasn't all empty talk. The Commonwealth did announce a \$200 million fund for development in South Asia: long-term investments in business and industry in each of the Commonwealth states of Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, and in non-Commonwealth Bhutan and Nepal.

So, after all the fun and hype, it probably is fair to say "well done" to the Edinburgh summit. It's nice not to be regarded as completely useless.



## A loyal opposition?

The Left has forgotten what it is to be Jews," Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told Kabbalist Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri.

So here we go again. As fast as Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's speed diatribe could reach Israel Radio, he was on with his party's standard diatribe against the prime minister. He reminded the audience that Netanyahu appeared in Zion Square when the infamous Rabin in a Gestapo uniform photomontage was flashed, and also was present at Ra'anana Junction in front of the "Rabin Coffin."

Never mind that Netanyahu would have had to have telescopic vision to pick out the photomontage from the crowd — it was only noticed by the press thanks to the diligent efforts of GSS agent provocateur Avishai Raviv.

The "Rabin Coffin" is also a hoax. It was a "Zionism Coffin" to represent what the protesters believed the late prime minister's policies were doing to Zionism. This was clearly stated by the slogan "Rabin is burying Zionism" on the side of the coffin.

Don't get me wrong. There is much to criticize about both what Netanyahu is doing and not doing. It is far from clear what plan the premier has. That is, if he has a plan. And there is no great solace in knowing that the Labor-Meretz ministers also had no idea what plan Yitzhak Rabin had. Or worse, as Mrs. Leah Rabin confided to MK Yossi Beilin, there was no plan.

And that's the pity. Here we are at a critical juncture in the history of the Jewish people and instead of a logical and — yes — passionate debate about where we should be going, we are served with almost daily diversions.

Could it be that Ehud Barak has nothing significant to say? LET'S consider several key issues: There is wall-to-wall agreement

include Gush Etzion and beyond) the Jordan Valley, and the other major settlements.

On the question of the release of terrorists, only the extreme Left can stomach freeing terrorists today with "blood on their hands." Given this broad consensus on so many issues one would hope and expect that responsible opposition leaders would take the role of a loyal opposition. But instead of actively supporting the government in these critical negotiations, the opposition prefers to undermine Netanyahu's negotiating position.

And they do this with a passion. Telling the world that the Israeli government is not serious about peace and ignoring Arafat's intransigent demands. Demands which they themselves reject. Now it would be one thing if the prime minister could withstand all the pressure. But Netanyahu's record to date doesn't indicate that this is the case. Time and again he has backed down from the principle of Palestinian compliance and reciprocity.

These are not minor problems. Israel faces today an already militarized Palestinian entity and there is no indication when, if ever, Palestinian forces will be curtailed to properly supervised acceptable levels.

Sure, blasting Netanyahu daily may very well impact the weekly public opinion polls. But the only poll that really counts will take place on election day. And by then the 1997 opinion polls will be long forgotten.

Israel not only deserves — its very future may well hinge on — a responsible loyal opposition. It's not too late for Ehud Barak to show that he has the maturity to be a true national leader.

The writer is director of IMRA, Independent Media Review & Analysis

that Israel cannot accept the return of a significant number of Palestinian refugees to within the Green Line.

There's not one Israeli figure — politician or otherwise — who claims Israel can live with a militarized Palestinian entity. The Oslo Agreement puts security in the Gaza airport and seaport squarely in Israeli hands but the

While opposition critics call on Netanyahu to speed up the negotiations, no Labor or Meretz MK has publicly suggested that Israel relinquish security control over traffic between the Palestinian entity and the outside world.

The same goes for the so called "free passages" between Gaza and the West Bank. With the exception of Shimon Peres's fantasy sky-bridge linking the two, no one seriously advocates bisecting Israel with the Palestinian-controlled road Arafat demands.

With the exception of the extreme Left, Israelis insist on a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty as well as the continuation of Israeli settlements in Greater Jerusalem (expanded to

## Soft on speeding

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

As most violent crime continues to decrease dramatically, one particularly deadly crime — a crime that kills more Americans than all other crimes combined — is increasing. And the increase, which is likely to get even worse, is exclusively the fault of legislators and governors who are "soft" on this most serious of crimes. The crime, of course, is vehicular homicide, caused largely by speeding.

More than 40,000 Americans are killed each year in vehicle accidents. In most of these deaths, the operator of the vehicle was driving at an excessive speed. In many, he was also drunk.

Speed-related deaths are the easiest crimes to reduce. There is a direct correlation between speed limits and automobile deaths. When the speed limit is reasonably reduced, the death rate goes down. When the limit is unreasonably raised, the death rate skyrockets. Any doubts about this direct correlation have been put to rest by a study just released by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. It measured death rates in 12 states which raised their highway speed limits in 1996, in response to the homicidal decision by Congress in December 1995 to abolish the national 65-mph speed limit, just a few years after it raised the limit from 55 mph to 65 mph.

In just nine months, automobile deaths in the 12 states which rushed to raise their speed limits increased by 12 percent. This translates to 500 dead men, women and children. The actual impact of the increased speed limit is even greater than these numbers suggest, for two independent reasons: First, according to an article in the *New York Times*, "The increase in deaths in states where speed limits have been raised is partly masked by a general improvement in the safety of cars, which has saved some people." Second, 27 other states — which were not studied — have also now raised their speed

limits, and "if the kinds of speed-limit increases we've seen in these 12 states occur in the whole country, we could be looking at about 2,000 more deaths a year," estimated a spokesman for the Institute. A study soon to be released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration — a neutral governmental agency — is expected to make similar findings.

What are we doing here? Are we crazy? We flex our own collective muscles when it comes to crimes that kill a few hundred people each year, but then we deliberately enact laws that we know will kill many more people. In the interest of what? The joy of speeding? The need to save a few minutes? Our collective unwillingness to submit to regulations?

NO. The real reason that our legislators and executives are soft on speeding is that we all do it. In the political context, crime is a "we-they" issue. Rapists, burglars, drug dealers and other such predators are the "they." Speeders and drunk drivers are the "we." And when "we" do it, it doesn't seem like crime, regardless of how many innocent people are killed.

We must stop thinking like this. It is within our power to save as many as 2,000 lives a year. All we have to do is restore the old nationwide 55-mph speed limit, or, at the very least, go back to a 65-mph speed limit. We will save lives. We will save money. We will reduce injuries. We will save money. It really is a no-brainer. But when was the last time brains were used in deciding any issue dealing with crime?

Legislators and other politicians pander to our exaggerated fear of street crime because it is an easy "we-they" issue. Most of them couldn't care less about saving innocent lives. If they did, they would have the courage to vote against increasing speed limits. But such votes do not translate into good election issues.

Voting to increase prison sentences for petty thieves does so translate. So legislators fall all over each other in an effort to show that no-one is tougher on crime than they are. But when their vote really could save lives, they vote for death by raising the speed limit.

Nothing will be done about this collective suicide pact we have entered into until voters — most of whom are drivers — demand a collective return to highway sanity. There is no single vote your elected officials can cast that would have a greater impact on the safety of your family than a vote to reduce the speed limit. Demand it of your elected officials. If you do not, you will share the responsibility for the next highway death that could have been prevented by a lower speed limit.

(United Feature Syndicate)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE SAME COIN

Sir, — David Kimche, "Unsettling action" (September 26) quotes a student saying, "The settlers and Hamas are two sides of the same coin..." No one challenged the student. What a pity. What a triumph of Arab propaganda.

ders, the stalking death of innocent bikers, cowardly attacks against school children, etc. What is the settler side of the coin? What is settler extremism? It is to build housing, to strengthen the settlements, to avoid a retreat to the indefensible 1967 borders, to achieve a secure and lasting peace with our neighbors.

### CARMAGGEDEN

Sir, — "Carmagedden," the newest electronic game in which the objects of destruction are not monsters but men, woman and children, has been on the market for two months in Israel and not a whimper has been heard from the public or educators. The more you run over on the roads the more points you will receive, the bigger the killer the bigger the winner.

our way of life, and perhaps the "Massada" syndrome has permeated our society. My protagonists in the war on road carnage, METUNA, protests the sale of this obscene game and will do everything possible to have it removed from the shelves.

### VISION AND GENEROSITY

Sir, — The viciousness of the ad hominem attacks in the media on Dr. Irving Moskowitz may have set a new low in a press not known for blushing restraint in its treatment of public figures. Amotz Asa-El's "A tragedy named Moskowitz" (September 19) goes so far as to equate this physician and philanthropist with the antisemitic stereotype of the medieval moneylender.

JACK E. FRIEDMAN  
Jerusalem.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On October 26, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that three and a half million Polish Jews had gone on strike in a silent protest against "ghetto benches" at universities. Some 2,000 Jewish pupils had demonstrated and were dispersed by police in Warsaw. Jewish newspapers did not appear. Protests were voiced against the economic boycott, terrorism, the systematic attempts at degradation, the race hatred and antisemitism.

drawal from Palestine would apparently begin by October, 1948. At the UN Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine the Soviet Union had demanded a firm date for British withdrawal. US sources stated that the country would adhere only with limited reservations to UNSCOP Partition borders and that it excluded the use of either US or Soviet troops in Palestine.

the Soviet Union held a one-day fast at the Western Wall to protest conditions in Gulag where Jews are being held. At least eight persons were wounded, among them Arab leaders, when letter bombs exploded in Lebanon, Libya and Algeria. A Jordanian terrorist with an Algerian diplomatic passport was allowed to leave Schiphol Airport for South America after Dutch authorities confiscated eight kg. of high explosives, detonators and hand grenades found in his suitcase.

50 years ago: On October 26, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported from London that the British with-

25 years ago: On October 26, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that two recent immigrants from

Three letter bombs addressed to President Nixon and two senior American officials were defused at Kiryat Shmona post office. Alexander Zvielli

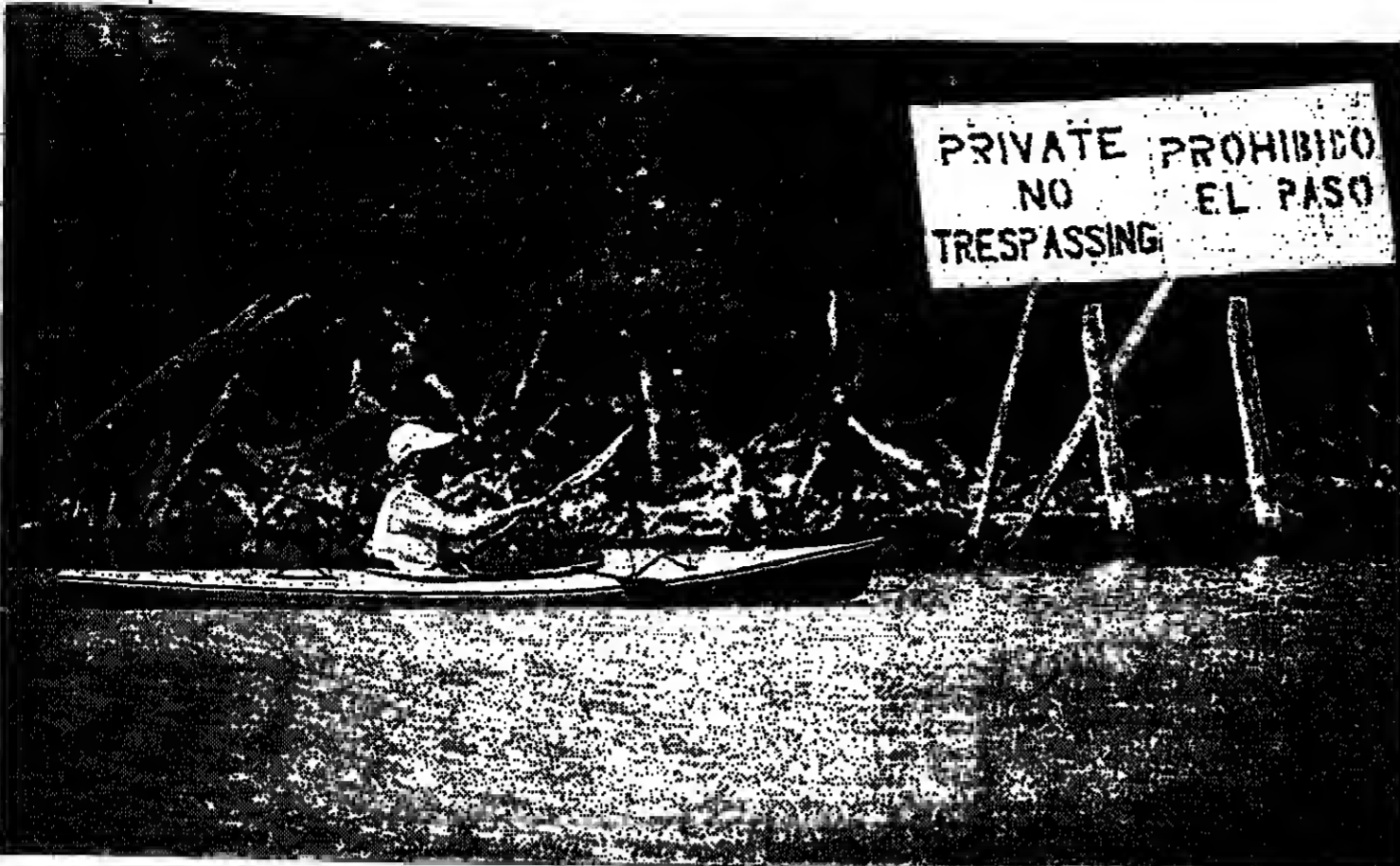
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The Jerusalem Post

Rhesus

Taking care





A local resident paddles next to Key Lois, where signs prohibit entry. Charles River Laboratories have owned the key for 24 years. They have inhabited the key with Rhesus monkeys, which are used and sold for scientific and medical experiments. Residents on nearby keys complain the monkeys have devastated local vegetation and have tainted the air. (AP)

## Rhesus pieces in the Florida Keys

For a quarter century, the furry residents of two tiny islands in the Florida Keys have been swinging in the trees, bathing in the subtropical water and snacking on protected red mangroves.

But what may have seemed like a good idea to Charles River Laboratories and the state of Florida 24 years ago has turned into an environmental nightmare.

The red mangroves are decimated on Key Lois and Raccoon Key, one of the islands is badly eroded, and the water around the islands is polluted with waste.

The culprit: about 1,000 Rhesus monkeys bred for research.

"These are healthy, happy monkeys," said Curtis Krueer, a biologist and fishing guide who has campaigned since the early 1980s to evict the voracious primates.

"They live in their little harems. They have their breeding groups, a bunch of females to a few males."

Five years ago, the state and Charles River worked out an agreement that allowed the company to keep the monkey operation well into the next century if it would reduce the population, protect the mangroves, and start a program to replant damaged areas.

In 1995, scientists even tried to cage the red mangroves to protect them, but the monkeys were still hungry after devouring their daily ration of monkey chow and soon figured out how to get dessert.

Officials with Charles River, a subsidiary of vision care giant Bausch and Lomb, admitted this summer that their plans to revegetate had been foiled by the wily primates.

"They ought to run this headline," quipped Ed Davidson, chairman of the Florida Audubon Society, "Darwin's theory of evolution disproven: Bausch and Lomb's top scientists consistently outwitted by monkeys."

After the state complained that Charles River wasn't living up to its agreement, Circuit Judge Sandra Taylor listened in July to three days of arguments about the future of the monkey islands.

In early September, the judge ordered Charles River to speed efforts to remove the free-roaming monkeys.

Under the decision, the monkeys on 100-acre (40-hectare) Key Lois would have to be off the island by June 1, 1998. The monkeys on 200-acre (80-hectare) Raccoon Key would have to be off by September 1, 1999.

The company has another 200 monkeys in breeding cages on Key Lois and agreed to give the island to the state by the end of 2012. Raccoon Key would be vacated by the end of 2024. Charles River has requested a rehearing on Taylor's ruling, which only applied to the free-range monkeys.



A Rhesus monkey holds her baby in Key Lois. (AP)

The monkeys are bred for scientific and medical research, including the study of AIDS, osteoporosis and Alzheimer's disease. They have also been sold for vaccine testing and NASA projects. When the young monkeys reach a year old, they are trapped and sold for \$1,500 to \$4,000 each.

Their isolated island habitat enhances their value, ensuring they are free from tuberculosis and other diseases, including one known as the simian B virus. Company officials say such infectious-free animals are a valuable resource for researchers.

But the monkeys have long worn out their welcome with nearby residents in the Keys — people attracted to the region by ocean breezes, sparkling azure waters and a sense of tropical refuge.

They complain of the smell, worry about the mangrove destruction and brood that a tropical storm could blow monkeys onto neighboring islands.

Opponents said the monkeys pose a threat because they could reach neighboring islands that are populated or part of the Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge.

For Nettanis Kline, a former nurse who retired with her husband

in 1969 to Summerland Key about 40 kilometers east of Key West, the monkeys aren't good neighbors. She complains about monkey waste that pollutes the water and said, depending on the wind, she can smell their "circus animal" fragrance. "We were here long before the monkeys came," she said. "But they've been there a long time. Nobody likes them."

That includes Florida environmental officials.

For years, Charles River and the state wrangled over the environmental damage and the threat of escapes.

Each time, agreements with government officials allowed the company to keep breeding the monkeys. Krueer worries the latest ruling allows too much time. "This order gives them two more years of monkeys eating mangroves, two more years of water degradation, and two more hurricane seasons," Krueer said.

State lawyers said they thought the judge's order was the best they could expect. But Krueer said the company is using the legal system to stall evasion so it can continue breeding and selling the monkeys as long as possible.

"This is a good example of the inability of government to deal

with something like this," Krueer said. "The moral of the story is don't let something outrageous get started unless you're prepared to deal with it."

Company officials complain their property rights are being lost in the noise. "Everybody seems to forget that we own the islands. The landowner has been there since 1973," said Charles River attorney Bob Routs, who complains that one man's environmental crusade is driving the state's actions. "We entered into an agreement to give away our land. But that is not enough for the other side."

The environmentalists are concerned about the red mangroves, which thrive in saltwater and have an elaborate root system that helps hold the sandy islands together. The thick root systems are also a valuable nursery for smaller fish and shellfish.

While Charles River may own the two islands, Krueer said the state owns the submerged lands up to high-tide level and has a right to protect the red mangroves from being used as "food for a commercial monkey-breeding operation."

Krueer and his allies are watching to see if Charles River is able to win more concessions — and time — from the state.

### BOOK REVIEW

## Master storyteller recreates the Geisha's secret world

By BETH GUTCHEON

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA by Arthur Golden. New York, Knopf. 434 pp. \$25.

There are women in the West who approximate geisha. They are free-lance and self-trained, and very few of them would be flattered by the comparison.

The geisha world of Japan, with its ancient traditions blending arts, romance and commerce, has no true Western equivalent, so the Japanese geisha is to us a mysterious, if fascinating, figure.

She is an accomplished musician, dancer and flirt. Her trade is to entertain and intrigue men, and her sexual favors may be for sale under the right circumstances, for the right price, but she is not a prostitute.

The skilled geisha whose career is wisely managed may achieve love, marriage, financial security, fame and admiration, and be intimate with the great men of her day.

A geisha who fails can end as a virtual slave to the house (or "okiya") to which she belongs, or slip out of the geisha world altogether into prostitution.

For a novelist, a geisha's life is rich material. There is only one problem.

One of the cardinal virtues of the geisha is her utter discretion, which protects her own devices as well as the privacy of the patrons who support her.

It would seem, therefore, to be nearly impossible for an outsider — let alone a Westerner or a man — to get enough access to this largely secret world to re-create it in fiction. For that reason (but not only that one), Arthur Golden's first novel, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, is nothing short of astonishing.

From the first paragraphs, Golden establishes the voice of geisha Sayuri as wise, intelligent, modest and uncommonly charming.

She begins to tell her story as if you and she were alone together and she were entertaining you, and entertain you she does. With the voice alone, Golden conveys the appeal of the geisha, always thinking of her listener, knowing just how to show a glimpse of inner foreman as she pours you another cup of tea, never boastful or self-dramatizing, with an unerring sense of just how much to dwell, how much detail is enough, when to move the story along.

From the beginning you know that Sayuri is telling you this story from contemporary New York, a tantalizing fact about a girl whose life began in the '20s in a fishing village on the Sea of Japan.

Her name was Chiyo then; her father was an old man, and her mother was dying.

She attracts the attention of the worldly Mr. Tanaka, who owns a seafood company in their village.

She believes Mr. Tanaka is planning to change her life in some way; she assumes he means to adopt her and her older sister when their mother dies. She is nine years old and has it slightly wrong. His plan, which he executes, is to buy them from their father and sell them in Kyoto.

Chiyo, who is beautiful with odd gray eyes, is sold to the Nitta okiya in the geisha district of Gion.

Her sister, Satsu, not beautiful or bright, is sent somewhere else; no one will tell Chiyo where. Here begins the riveting story of Chiyo's education.

This okiya is like a secular cloister, owned by an unpleasant former geisha known as Mother and supporting a somewhat less unpleasant Auntie, a horrid Granny and a large staff.

At the time of Chiyo's arrival, the okiya has one working geisha, Hatsumomo, whose income supports the entire establishment.

Hatsumomo is a spiteful, jealous and destructive person in private, and Mother has withheld from her the one thing that would make her future secure, which is to adopt her and make her the heir apparent of Nitta okiya.

Chiyo goes into training along with another very young girl whom everyone calls Pumpkin. They are supposed to be under Hatsumomo's protection, to be taught by her a myriad of skills regarding dress, decorum and maquilage, as well as attending school to learn flute and drums and samizen, and especially dance.

But Hatsumomo feels for Chiyo a reckless malice and goes out of her way to prevent her success, to load her with debt, to see that Pumpkin advances while Chiyo remains a servant in the okiya.

Since the geisha world is as foreign to Chiyo at that point as it is to us, we learn Chiyo's lessons with her, always a little too late to see what Hatsumomo's plan is or to imagine how one little girl



A geisha's life is rich material for a novelist. (UPI)

can save herself in a system so arcane and subtle.

Golden's writing is elegant, spare, but wonderfully evocative. We feel the textures and smells of Sayuri's world, and especially we see.

When Sayuri has become an apprentice geisha and receives her first important present from an admirer, it proves to be "a simple jewel, a ruby as big as a peach pit."

It was like a giant drop of blood sparkling in the sunlight over the pond." Her new mentor, the geisha Mameha, tells her she will have other jewels in her life, but must immediately give this one to Mother Nitta. This is Sayuri's reaction: "To see this beautiful jewel, and the light that seeped out of it painting my hand pink, and to think of Mother with her sickly yellow eyes and her meat-colored rims... well it seemed to me that giving this jewel to her would be like dressing up a badger. But of course, I had to obey Mameha."

Arthur Golden is a master storyteller, which would be enough to be grateful for, even without his other gifts. He is also, clearly, a skillful social historian and especially a stylist of marvelous powers.

This is a gift of a book, as close to un-put-downable as any novel in years, yet bristling with intelligence and grace. Wow.

(Newsday)

## How to become a freelance writer

by NICK DAWS

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required.

The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 5,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

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### EARTHLY CONCERNS

## Taking care of business, but not the environment

By D'VORA BEN SHAIL

The World Trade Organization (WTO), an international organization with 130 members, is on a collision course with environmental standards in the industrialized world. While this far the brushes have been slight, there is every reason to anticipate some real clashes in the near future.

The problem lies in the fact that signatories of the WTO charter represent many different countries that have pledged free trade and undertaken not to hinder one another in pursuing their own trade interests.

Unfortunately, a number of these countries either cannot or will not adhere to any standards of environmental protection endorsed by some of the others. Thus while shrimp from Thailand is abundant and of high quality, Thai fishermen use

nets that also kill large numbers of baby sea turtles, an endangered species protected under a number of international protocols.

The United States decided to ban the importation of shrimp from Thailand unless the Thai equip their boats with turtle excluders.

The device is simple and easy to install, but Thai fishermen claim it is too expensive.

Thailand took the matter to the membership of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a branch of the WTO set up to handle trade infringement disputes between members.

The fishermen claiming interference with free trade, GATT ruled in their favor. The US could not force environmental protective devices on Thailand by interfering with free trade.

The same situation is now faced over

the US import of tuna.

For a number of years, the US has refused to import tuna from countries in which nets are used that also kill dolphins.

But now the WTO has decreed that this too is illegal and an infringement on free trade.

Adding to the impasse is the fact that the environmental issues often pit the more affluent nations against poorer countries.

Some environmentalists have come to the conclusion that free trade and sustainable environmental development are mutually exclusive in developing countries. Others say this is not so.

Certainly a number of the poorer nations feel that this is the case. Now in the line of fire is the entire system of eco-labeling, whereby products are given a seal of approval as being environmentally

friendly.

Egypt, India, and a number of other members of the WTO say that this labeling is discriminatory and a violation of the principles of free trade.

If these matters are eventually supported by the GATT, it will mean that CFCs, still manufactured in a few countries but outlawed in most, will again be available on the free market, as well as aerosols containing these materials.

Also included might be rare and protected wood products from old-growth forests, and any number of other products deemed environmentally harmful by a number of the member states.

"It will," says Murray Gret of Greenpeace, "entirely annul the benefits derived by the environment under the Montreal Protocols, until now the most important international treaty made for environmental protection."



# Lights, sounds and vibrations: Solutions for the disabled

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

US President Bill Clinton's having the gumption to wear a \$2,000 pair of in-the-canal hearing aids - and telling the world about it - should serve as an example to his contemporaries and older people, to seek help for their auditory problems.

Baby boomers, who were raised to think that they'll be forever healthy, wealthy and wise, are increasingly discovering their own health problems. Those, like Clinton, who spent much of their time listening to car-shattering music in the '60s and '70s are now paying for it with reduced hearing.

A previous resident of the White House, Ronald Reagan, used a quite-visible hearing aid, but that was not regarded as sensational because of his age. Now that the much-younger Clinton is wearing one, the effect on the hearing disabled has been quite sensational, according to Anita Haravon, information dissemination coordinator of the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Hearing Enhancement and Assistive Devices at New York City's Lexington Center for the Deaf.

Haravon was discussing such devices as a recent guest of Micha Jerusalem, an organization that helps the hard of hearing. Haravon, who has a master's degree in speech and hearing science from the City University of New York, lectured at Micha before an appreciative audience that reflected growing Israeli interest in the subject.

The explosion of digital technology has been a godsend for the disabled, said Haravon in an interview. "In most cases, existing technologies have been adapted instead of new ones invented to help the disabled."

The deaf and hearing disabled of previous generations were not so fortunate. The Lexington School and Center for the Deaf was founded in 1865 (the year the US Civil War ended) on Lexington Avenue in Manhattan, and served as an oral school for deaf children. Exactly a century later, it moved to Jackson Heights, Queens, and expanded its role. Not only does the non-profit center operate a state-funded school for 400 deaf pupils from infancy, and the only high school for deaf children in New York City, but it has also become a "one-stop" facility for the hearing disabled of all ages.

"There are vocational services to help them find jobs and show workplaces how to adapt to the hearing disabled," said Haravon. "There are 26 million hearing disabled in the US, about one percent of them totally deaf. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that disabled people must have equal access to all mainstream services, including employment, public places and telecommunications. The hearing disabled have to have equal access to performances, conferences, meetings, with all facilities offering 'reasonable accommodation.' We also have a mental health center with specially trained staffers who do crisis intervention. One case involved a group of 20 illegal deaf Mexican immigrants who were treated as slaves by New York employers who threatened to



Israel is unfortunately much behind the US in awareness of the need for assistive devices and appreciation of the rights of the deaf and other disabled. (Mike Goldberg)

inform the authorities about their lack of legal papers. When this was revealed, it became a scandal and we tried to help them to deal with the system."

The Lexington Center spends much effort persuading manufacturers to produce products of "universal design" with lights, sounds and vibrations; so that they can be used by everyone, whatever their disability, including the deaf and blind. Thus, "microwave" ovens would have a flashing light when it finished heating, instead of just a buzzer. "Retrofitting these with the suitable devices is extremely expensive, so if these things were built in for the benefit of the deaf or other disabled, it would be a boon to all."

The center has a research division, funded by federal grants, that promotes the study of what are termed "assistive technologies." Among the technologies are learning devices, such as personal amplifiers. These look very much like a Walkman, but they have a powerful, built-in microphone instead of a tape player. There are also large-area listening systems, used in public places where lectures, concerts and movies are presented. The speaker or sound source has a microphone and transmitter, while the listener carries the receiver.

A more expensive system is an FM radio signal transmitter, which is excellent for classrooms, lec-

tures and outdoor and personal use. This can cost \$800 for a personal system and \$2,000 for a group. Infrared light-wave transmission, the type that links your hand control device to your TV set, can also be used in theaters and concert halls, but it can't be used outdoors or in other areas in very bright light. A personal system costs around \$250, said Haravon, while a group system is about \$1,000.

Audio induction loops can be inserted into a hearing aid and used to hear better on the phone; "in the US, all phones must be equipped with a telecoil, which is the second part of this system." A giant audio induction loop can encircle an entire room and be connected to the sound system to assist disabled listeners' ability to hear. The loop transmits sound electromagnetically and is picked up by the telecoil.

At home, a large number of devices are available, and some of them are even sold in Israel. They include a vibrating alarm light, a doorbell light and a smoke alarm with a strobe light (some of these are manufactured by an Israeli company, Kilim, in Haifa.)

Deaf parents can make much use of a baby-cry light, while everyone can benefit from a light that goes on when the phone rings. There are also motion sensors, papers, door announcers and even bed shakers.

Haravon noted that many digital wireless and cellular phones can interfere with hearing aids, but that researchers and federal agencies in the US are trying to find solutions. Text telephones, fax machines, beepers and e-mail on computers are, of course, expensive but have the potential to revolutionize the way disabled people function and work. Although hearing aids help many people, they are still far from perfect. "If you drum your fingers on the table or shuffle papers, this noise will be heard by the user as loud as your speech. The brain has the ability to block out these extraneous noises to an amazing degree, but the hearing aid can't," she explained.

"There are various types of hearing aids that use compression or are digital and more expensive, but these still cause some problems. The in-the-canal hearing aids that President Clinton is using is only for people who don't have a very significant hearing decline."

Israel is unfortunately much behind the US in awareness of the need for assistive devices and appreciation of the rights of the deaf and other disabled. But the fact that Micha - which cares for deaf and hearing disabled children from birth to age six - organized Haravon's lecture, offers hope that help is not too far away.

The Lexington Center and School for the Deaf has a website at <http://ltd.net-reslex>

# Attempted suicides among minors are neglected

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

The recent report about a 16-year-old youth who killed himself after a dispute with his mother about spending too much time on the Internet shocked many readers. According to the story, he threw himself from the balcony of his apartment after his mother charged he was responsible for their phone bills being too high.

But numerous other cases of child and teenage suicide don't get into the papers - and even fewer attempted suicides in this age group make the news.

According to the National Council for the Child, the Health Ministry has failed to take seriously the problem of attempted suicide among minors. In a report recently issued by the council based on a survey of public hospitals' dealings with such cases in emergency rooms, it was revealed that few of them carry out ministry regulations. As a result, few of the troubled kids are treated properly to prevent additional attempts on their life.

The editor of the study, Miriam Gilat, says a previous council survey carried out two years before on routine procedures for admitting youngsters to the emergency room after a suicide attempt disclosed worrisome handling of such cases. As a consequence, she said, the council initiated and organized a conference on the subject that resulted in its compilation of recommendations for identifying, diagnosing and treating such youngsters in the hospital and in the community.

An inter-ministry committee headed by Health Ministry officials prepared a binding list of guidelines for all hospital emergency rooms, including forms that must be filled out and returned to the ministry. But the latest council survey has found that in most cases, these procedures are not being followed.

Twenty-four hospitals were asked to participate in the survey, and 21 of them sent in their replies. Only 17 of them (71%) claimed that in the event of suicide attempts by minors they follow the required guidelines; but when the

council actually analyzed their responses, it found that "most" of them either don't know the procedures or don't act according to them.

The person responsible for the emergency room must inform the ministry about any attempted suicide, or suspicion of such an act, by a minor - without revealing any identifying information about the patient. In fact, the survey found that only 10 of the responding hospitals (or 42% of the total) actually do this. The rules also require the hospital to keep a separate list of suicide attempts by children and teenagers, with identifying details about those involved; the list is bound by rules of medical confidentiality.

Just 15 hospitals (62%) said they make such a list, and only 12 provide data (without identifying details) on numbers to the council. In most hospitals, said the council, the type of injury is registered but not the cause, so the data they have is often useless in knowing how many suicide attempts they treat.

The ministry also requires the emergency room to summon a staff psychiatrist any time a youngster who attempted suicide reaches the hospital. But the survey found that just 17 of the 21 hospitals actually do this. One hospital said it called a clinical psychologist instead. When the patient is treated and discharged, the psychiatrist must set down on paper a summary of treatment in the hospital and instructions for continuing psychiatric care; he or she must inform the patient's personal physician and the ministry's mental health services. However, just 14 hospitals (58%) do as is required, and in three of them, a social worker is responsible for discharge procedures.

Although the hospital must ensure continuing care in the community, especially by informing the youngster's own doctor, 17 actually fill out a referral form for care in the community, but they don't follow through on seeing that such care is actually given.

The council also found wide variation on reporting standards in the various hospitals. Only three hospitals contacted social services

in the community.

The lack of awareness among hospital personnel is not surprising, since only two hospitals (eight percent) were found to have held special training sessions for staffers on the topic of suicide attempts by minors, even though the ministry requires such training. Asked whether they cited recurring suicide attempts by patients, only five (21%) had data on this. "One must be very concerned that such information critical to the continued treatment of youngsters who have made previous attempts on their life is not available in hospitals," the author of the survey declared.

Since only half of the hospitals were able to provide data on child and teenage suicide attempts, the council said that any figures obtained by the ministry vastly underrepresent the actual picture. The ministry's "failures" in this matter are very disappointing, Gilat continued, as the emergency room is a critical spot in which an aware medical team can help troubled youngsters get the help they need; by failing this, they are contributing to the deterioration in their condition, she wrote.

Those hospitals judged by the council as having failed to carry out the procedures properly or at all were: Shaare Zedek, Sheba, Wolfson, Nahariya, Rambam, Meir (it kept records only for those up to age 16), Kaplan (recorded only those aged 16 to 18), Hasharon, Josephthal, St. Vincent's (Nazareth) and Bikur Holim (which stopped keeping records for 18 months because of a "computer failure").

Those that had more data were Sieff, Assaf Harofe (but only about suicide attempts using pills), Barzilai, Bnai Zion, Schneider, Ha'emek, Carmel, Hadassah-Mt. Scopus, and the Scottish Hospitals in Nazareth.

Health Ministry chief psychologist Dalia Gilboa conceded that some of the findings may be true, but she disputed most of them. "We regard this subject as a very important one, and in the past few years, the ministry and numerous hospitals have invested special efforts in dealing with suicide attempts among youth."

## HEALTH SCAN

# Protecting yourself against oral cancer

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Saliva has long been believed vital in rinsing the teeth and oral membranes from food particles and promoting the healing of sores in the mouth. Now it seems saliva may help protect people against oral cancer, while a lack of saliva - which is increasingly common as one grows older - could increase the risk of this type of tumor.

Such indications, at least among lab animals, have been found by researchers at Soroka Hospital in BeerSheva.

Prof. Lipa Budner of the hospital's maxillofacial surgery unit, recently did a study on rats that was published in *Oral Oncology, The European Journal of Cancer*. They took rats whose salivary glands had been surgically removed and exposed them to a carcinogenic compound called 4-NQO.

When they compared the effects with those in rats with normal salivation, the researchers found those that didn't salivate developed oral cancer much more quickly, and tumors in their mouth were more deadly than those in the salivating rats.

The results - while not necessarily relevant in humans - support theories that saliva has an important role in protecting people against oral cancer. Such tumors are largely a disease of the elderly, with 32% of patients over 70 and 50% aged 50 to 70. Thus, Budner suggests that people with little

saliva visit an ear-nose-and-throat or maxillofacial specialist for regular checkups.

Among those who have little or no saliva are people who have the auto-immune disease Sjogren's disease, cancer patients who are undergoing radiation or chemotherapy that affects the salivary glands, and elderly people in general.

### TA MEDICAL TOWER

Within three years, hundreds of patients at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital will move into a \$40 million, 12-story tower, a quarter of the funds donated by Ted Arison, who recently bought Bank Hapoalim.

The cornerstone-laying ceremony was held recently, attended by the donor, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo.

The tower will replace all the old Ichilov departments, including surgical theaters and a medical library. It was designed by the US architectural firm Cannon, which has much experience in planning hospitals.

### BABY RESPIRATOR

A respirator using a new technique recently saved the lives of two premature babies at Bikur Holim Hospital in Jerusalem. The system is based on channeling air at high frequencies - 600 to 1,200 bursts per minute.

This causes vibrations that are absorbed by the lungs without stretching them, unlike the con-

ventional respirators that uses high pressure consistently over a long period of time.

Dr. Ilan Gur, a senior physician in the neonatal intensive care unit, said the new system is helpful in that it can ventilate the lungs even when they have suffered damage. It is also useful in case where connecting a premature baby to a regular respirator is liable to cause complications and even endanger life.

The first baby to be saved weighed only 550 grams, while the second, born in the 37th week of pregnancy, suffered from irregular heartbeat and was delivered by cesarean. Both could breathe on their own after being ventilated with the new device.

Meanwhile, Bikur Holim has instituted a new service called Pa'anon with female volunteers to assist women during childbirth. Initiated and headed by Simlami Elzenbach, the service is meant especially for women who have no family nearby. The volunteers are especially important in haredi families, where the husband does not remain in the delivery room when the actual birth is taking place.

The volunteer is twinned with the pregnant woman when she registers to give birth and she advises her during the last months of pregnancy.

She also makes sure that the new mother has basic equipment for the baby, such as diapers and bottles, and helps organize the birth mila, if necessary.

### POST-WAR MALES

Couples in which the man is several years older than the woman are more likely to have a first-born son than a daughter, according to a study by evolutionary biologist John Manning of the University of Liverpool.

He and his colleagues studied birth records from 301 British families, analyzing the age of the parents and the sex of their children.

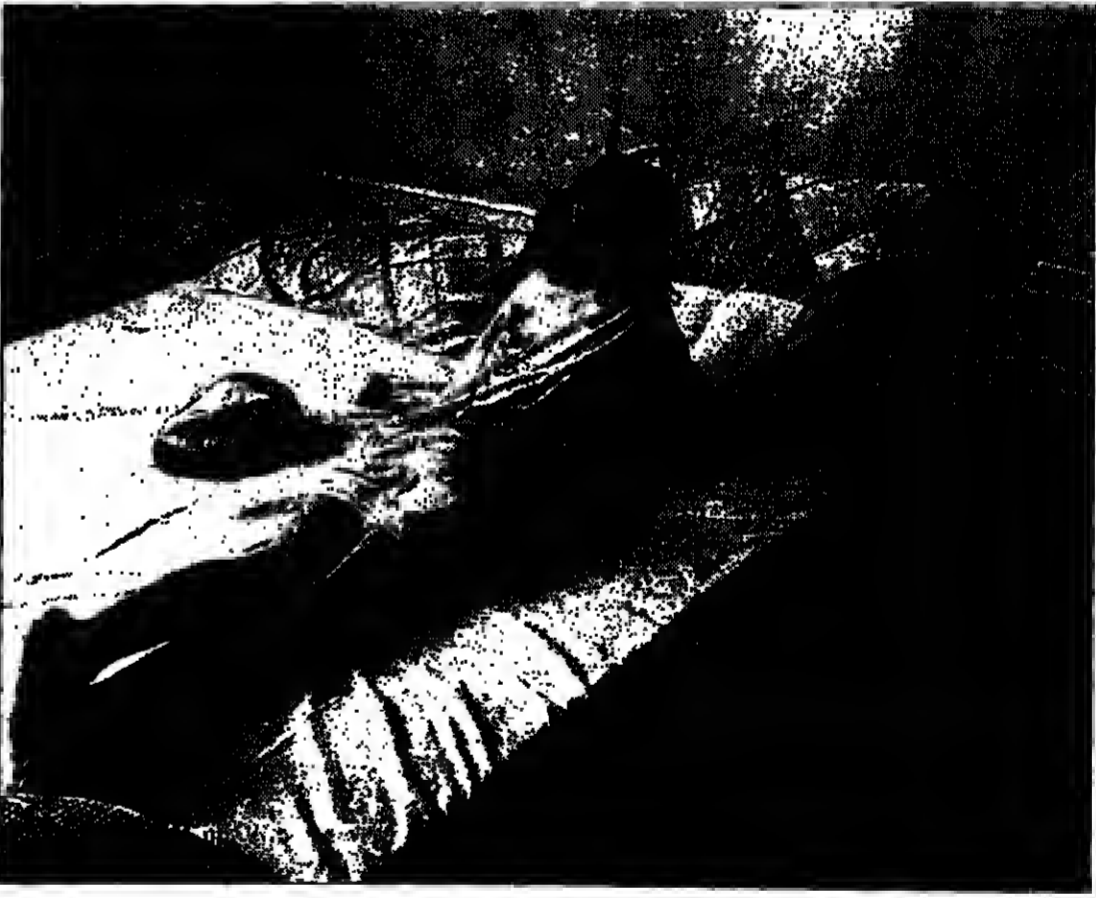
A recent issue of *Nature* reported that in couples involved in the study: when men were at least five years older than their wives, they had 37 sons and 20 daughters among their firstborn children. Couples in which the wives were one to nine years older than their husbands had 14 sons and 29 daughters.

This pattern didn't show up in second-borns. The researchers could only hypothesize about biological or evolutionary pressures that might cause this.

"Rank in many animals," the researchers declared, "is related to the sex of their offspring."

During and shortly after periods of war or financial difficulty, the number of males born in a society tends to outnumber the number of females. One possible explanation for this phenomenon is that women may tend to marry older men during troubled times, either because there's a shortage of younger men or the women's concerns about their well-being impel them to find men with more resources.

## Rx FOR READERS



Lying on your stomach can be uncomfortable. (Israel Talby)

# Sleeping on either side is fine for your heart

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

I am 40 and somewhat overweight. Is there any one sleeping position that is best for health? S.D., BeerSheva.

Prof. Peretz Lavie, dean of the Haifa Technion medical faculty and head of its sleep lab, answers:

The best way for you to sleep is on your side, preferably with knees bent. Lying on your back increases the risk of snoring and puts the most weight on your spine. If you're overweight, lying on your stomach will probably be uncomfortable. Contrary to the notion that lying on the left side is better because of the heart, scientists believe it doesn't matter which side you lie on.

I am a 30-year-old woman and for several years have suffered from recurrent vaginal infections. What causes them, and is there any connection to hygiene? What is the treatment? G.D., Ramat Gan.

I am a 28-year-old woman who has suffered from a number of

repeated vaginal infections. Can these cause cumulative damage to fertility? What are the available treatments? Y.S., Tel Aviv.

Dr. Rahel Adano-Levy, a senior gynecologist at Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem, replies:

*Candida albicans*, a fungus, is most common cause of vaginal infections, but one must do a culture to find out the exact cause. This common fungus often multiplies as the result of taking antibiotics, as these drugs can kill beneficial bacteria in the intestine and vagina, and their absence allows *Candida* to flourish. The use of the contraceptive pill can also lead to *Candida* infections, which also are more likely to appear shortly before or after menstruation.

Hygiene is important, as the fungus can spread from the rectum to the vagina, but even if you are very careful, one can still get the infection, which causes itching, discharge and the urge to urinate. The infection does not affect fertility. If there are recurrent bouts, one's sexual partner should be checked as well.

As a preventive measure, I recommend regularly eating bio yogurts, which have *Lactobacillus acidophilus* bacteria that create an acidic environment in the intestine and vagina. Some women use this yogurt or a mixture of vinegar and water in the vagina to increase acidity, but eating it is also very helpful. There are also anti-fungal medications taken orally or vaginally.

Since recurrent vaginal infections are a presenting symptom of adult-onset diabetes, I always send patients for a sugar test.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page. Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax it to (02) 538-9527 or e-mail it to [jusie@post.co.il](mailto:jusie@post.co.il), giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

مركز التحليل







Vikings try to make matters worse for Buccaneers

NEW YORK (AP) - The bye week came just in time for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to regroup after two losses in a row. Now the team that had defied its losing tradition with a 5-0 start plays host to Minnesota, the second party in a three-way tie with Green Bay atop the NFC Central.

Jacksonville when Norm Johnson's potential game-winning field goal was blocked and returned for a touchdown on the game's final play. That means if Jacksonville wins this game, it'll have a one-game edge plus a tiebreaker in the AFC Central.

Pittsburgh's strategy has to be to run Jerome Bettis, who tore up the Jaguars in the second half in Jacksonville and had 135 yards against the Ravens last week. Jacksonville's strategy has to be to throw - Mark Brunell, in his first game back from a knee injury, passed for 306 yards in the first meeting.

night what he can do as a receiver when he's motivated. Oakland (3-4) at Seattle (4-3) The Raiders have to keep the momentum they gained by beating Denver. The Seahawks, who have won four of five after an 0-2 start, need a solid division win.

National Football League Individual Leaders

Table with columns for National Conference, American Conference, and NFL. Rows list player names, teams, and statistics for various positions like Quarterbacks, Running Backs, Receivers, etc.

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Table with 2 columns: Symbol, Price. Includes various stock symbols and their current prices.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with 2 columns: Symbol, Change. Lists Israeli companies and their share price changes in New York.

AMEX

Table with 2 columns: Symbol, Change. Lists American companies and their share price changes on the AMEX.

NASDAQ

Table with 2 columns: Symbol, Change. Lists American companies and their share price changes on the NASDAQ.

Table with 2 columns: Symbol, Change. Lists various international companies and their share price changes.

LONDON

Table with 2 columns: Symbol, Change. Lists companies and their share price changes in London.

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Table with 2 columns: Symbol, Change. Lists companies and their share price changes in Paris.

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Table with 2 columns: Symbol, Change. Lists companies and their share price changes in Frankfurt.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Lists various currencies and their exchange rates.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with 2 columns: Index, Value. Lists various market indices and their values.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with 2 columns: Index, Value. Lists other market indices and their values.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Lists dollar crossrates for various currencies.

US COMMODITIES

Table with 2 columns: Commodity, Price. Lists various commodities and their prices.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with 2 columns: Commodity, Price. Lists various commodities and their prices in London.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with 2 columns: Metal, Price. Lists various metals and their spot prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with 2 columns: Metal, Price. Lists various metals and their futures prices in New York.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with 2 columns: Metal, Price. Lists various metals and their fixed prices in London.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

Table with 2 columns: Company, Price. Lists data communication companies and their prices.

Hong Kong rebounds; Dow continues plunge

HONG KONG (AP) - A rebound in Hong Kong's stock market could not convince investors worldwide that Asia's economic problems are over, as US stocks dropped and European markets gave up most of their early gains on Friday while most of Asia's markets fell.

In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average, Wall Street's most watched indicator, dropped 90.37 points to 7,757.40 in late morning trading after jumping 92 points to start the day on enthusiasm about the turnaround in Hong Kong's market.

But investors grew uncertain about Hong Kong's future in light of forecasts for a long-term slowdown in the country's influential property market, renewed speculative attacks on its currency and continued high interest rates.

That could mean an overall slowdown of Hong Kong's vibrant economy, although no one is sure how much.

"I wouldn't rule out that the Hong Kong share market will never again see the high of three months ago," said independent investment analyst Marc Faber.

The blue-chip Hang Seng index ended Friday at 11,144.34 points, up 718.04 or 6.88 percent, as investors shopped for shares cheapened by the market's 10% plunge on Thursday. It was Hong Kong's second-highest surge since the global 1987 crash.

The surge helped Tokyo's stock market recover. But the Dow industrial, an index of 30 multinational companies whose profits already have been pinched by the mounting economic turmoil in Southeast Asia, retreated as European markets turned mixed.

Stocks in London finished lower after a morning rally fizzle in the late afternoon. The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index closed with a loss of 21.3 points, or 0.4%, at 4,970.2 on Europe's biggest market. The index peaked during the day at 5,103.2, a gain of 111.7 points.

In Paris, the CAC 40 index also



Dow Jones 7715.41 v 1.69 FTSE 4970.2 v 0.43 Nikkei 17363.74 v 1.24

forced higher interest rates, and in turn triggered the stock sell-off.

The Hong Kong Association of Banks raised savings deposit interest rates Friday by 0.75 percentage points to 4.75% - a move widely expected after individual banks lifted their prime lending rates by the same margin Thursday, to 9.5%.

Instead of rushing to pull out their savings in panic, said Bradbury, many investors were boosting their deposits to take advantage of the improved earnings.

The big test will be property prices, he said. "The buyers will be staying away, and anybody who wants to sell is going to have to drop their price," he said.

Faber predicted a 30% to 50% decline in Hong Kong property prices over the next six months to a year.

The government has acknowledged the economy probably won't achieve the 5.5% growth it previously forecast for 1997.

Banks say 1998 growth will be slower still. Elsewhere in Asia, Tokyo stocks rebounded after their two-year low Thursday, with the benchmark 225-issu Nikkei Stock Average gaining 212.19 points, or 1.24%, to 17,363.74.

In Seoul, however, the Korea Stock Exchange plunged at the close of trading Friday to finish at 570.91 points, down 5.5%, the biggest one-day loss in history.

Singapore's benchmark index shed 1.9%, following on a 5% loss Thursday. Malaysian stocks were down 1.5%, while Philippine stocks finished the day 0.8% higher after Thursday's 5% loss.

Taiwan's stock market suffered a sharp sell-off at the start, but calmed down to finish only 1.9% lower.

In New Zealand, the NZSE-10 capital index closed 5.4% lower. Australia's All Ordinaries Index was down 3.2% at mid-session, but recovered somewhat to close 2.1% lower.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Lists foreign currency deposit rates for various currencies.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (24.10.97)

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Lists shekel foreign exchange rates for various currencies.

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Lists check and transfer rates for various currencies.

BANKNOTES

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Lists banknote rates for various currencies.

Rep.

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Lists representative rates for various currencies.

These rates vary according to bank. \*Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Shores Pharm, 42 Agripas, 824-8484; Bateam, Saleh E. Din, 627-2315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 828-2058.

Tel Aviv: Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 524-5461; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 841-3730; Herzliya: Clal Pharm, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 828-2058.

Netanya: Hadassa, 24 Herzl, 822-2243. Haifa: Habankim, 5 Habankim, 851-3005. Krayot area: Ofir Hachash, 36 St. Haratzim, Krayot, 844-9148.

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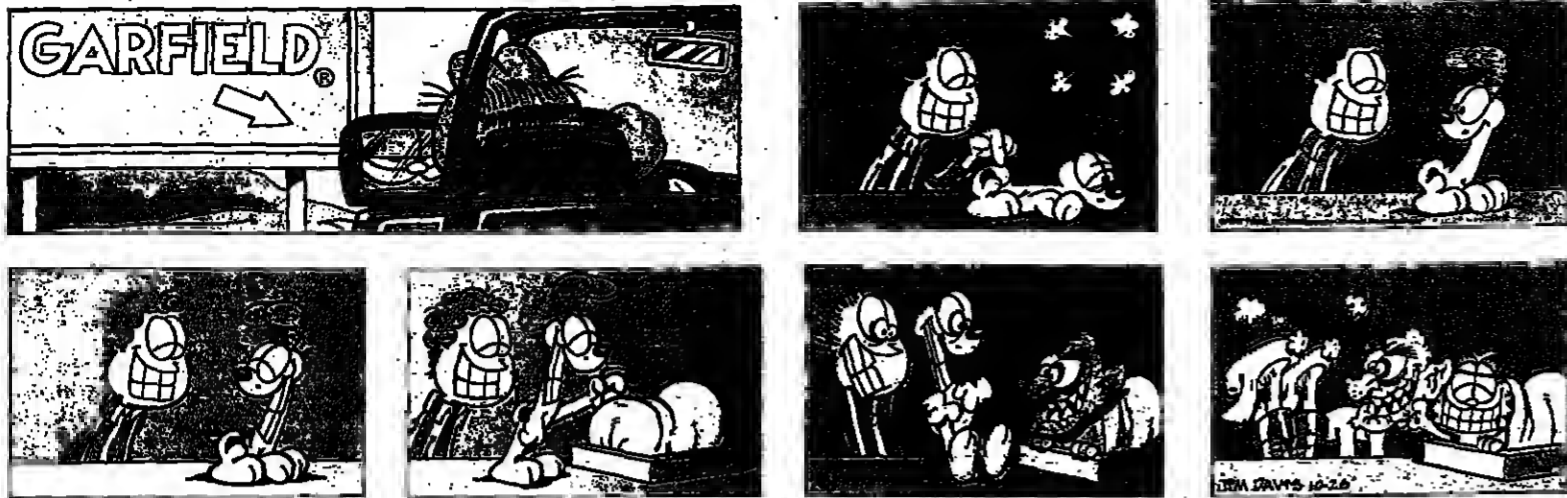
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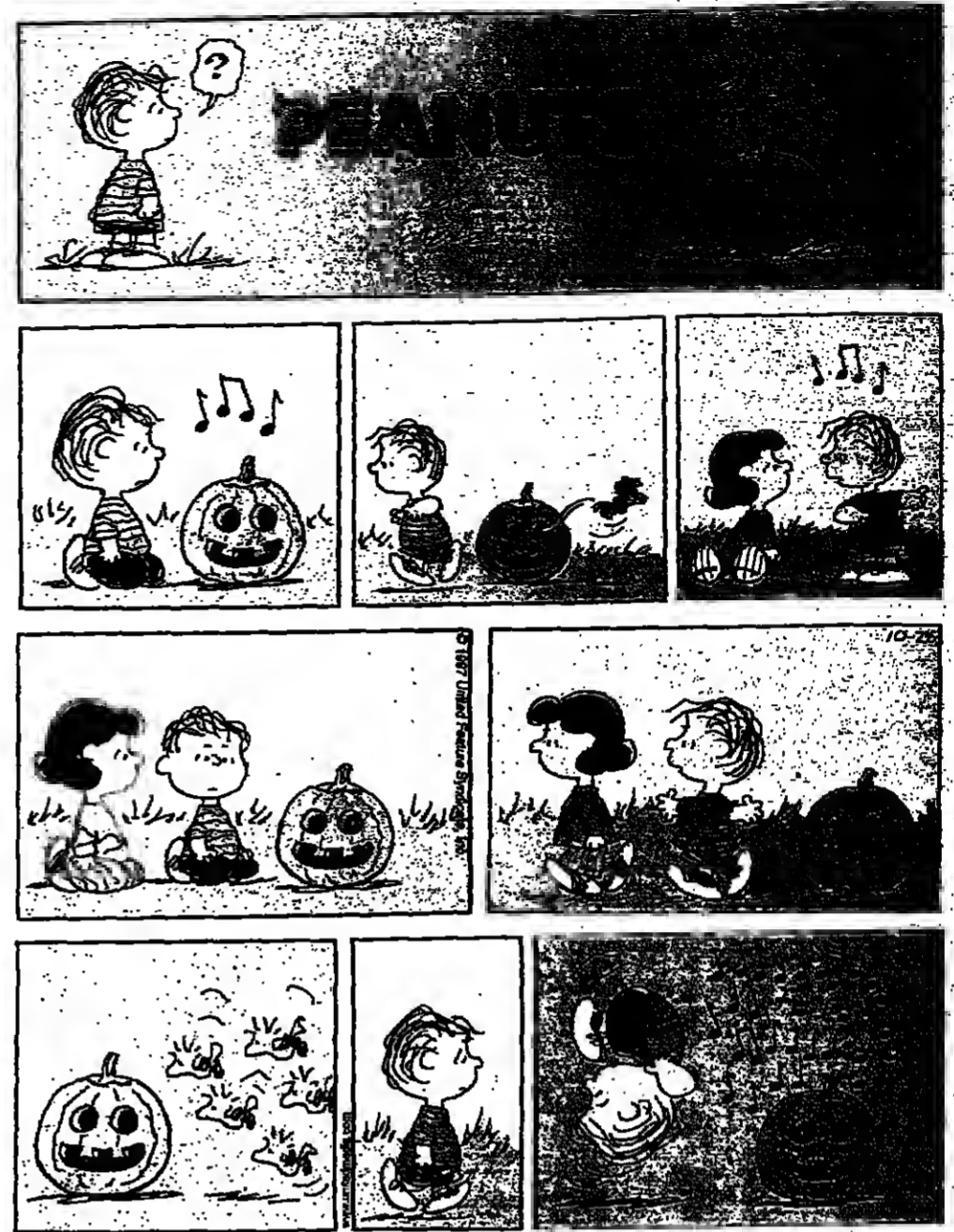
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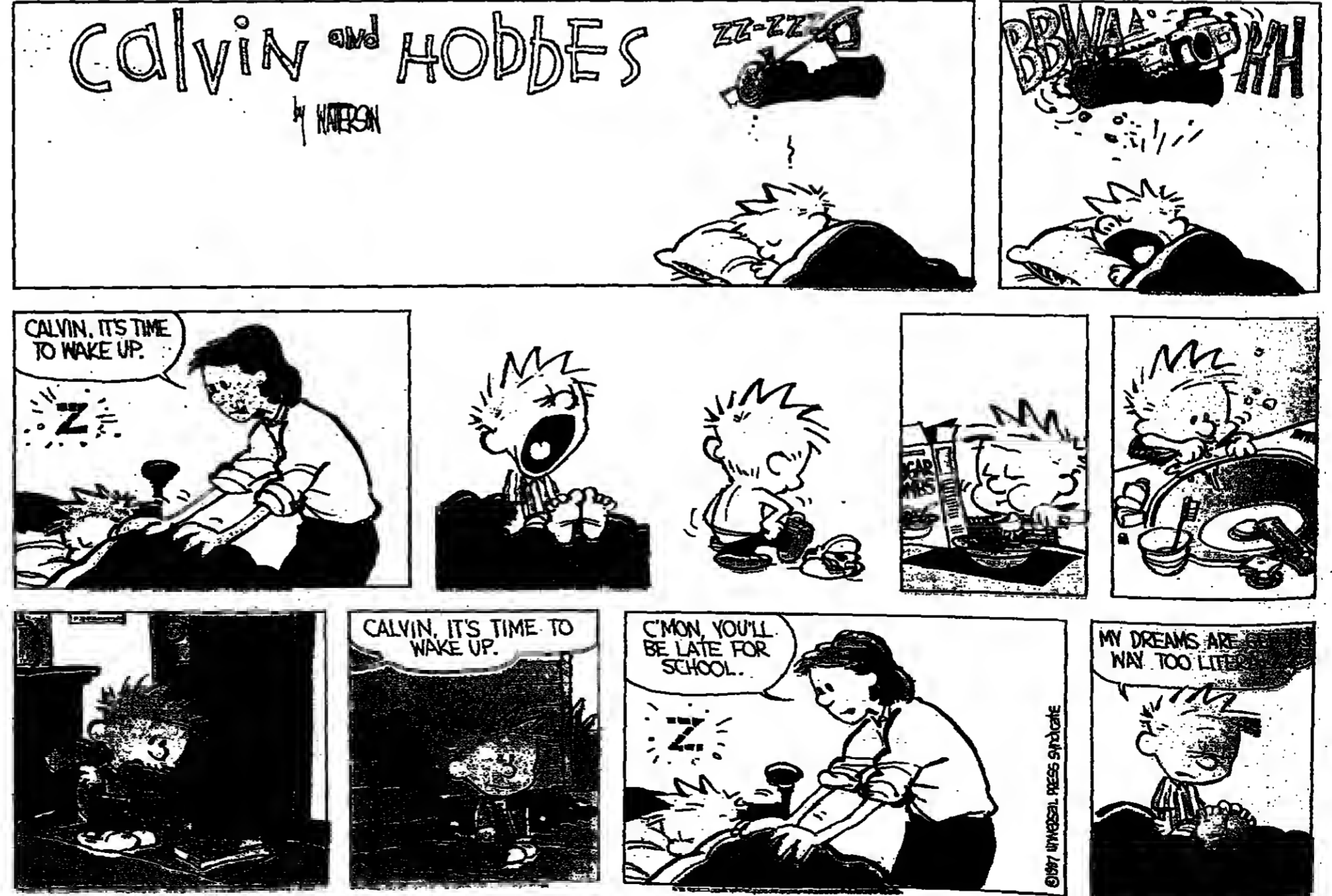
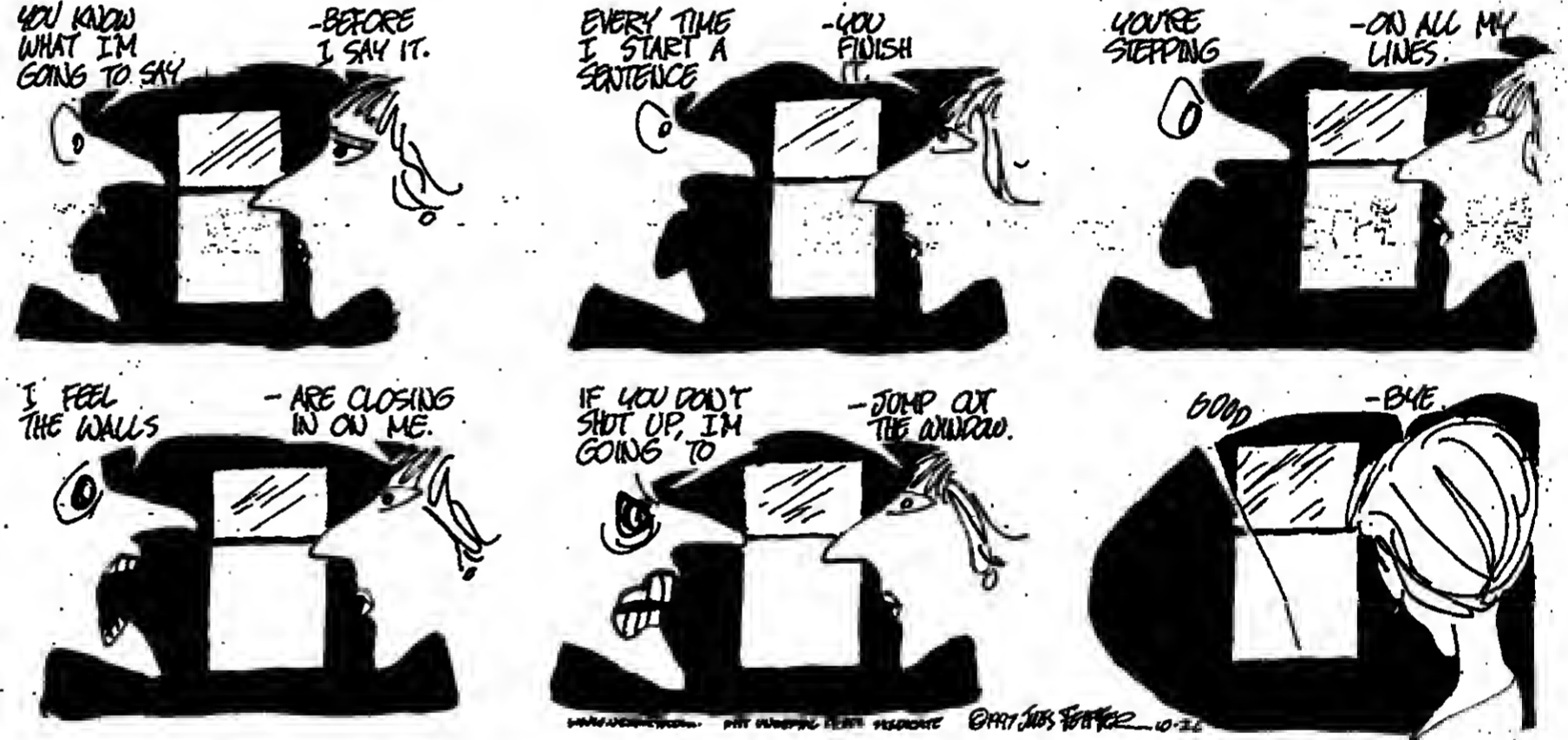


DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



FEIFFER









Knesset winter session opens tomorrow

# Labor, Meretz mull no-confidence vote

By LIAT COLLINS

Both the Labor and Meretz parties are calling for the vote on the prime minister's statement at the opening of the Knesset's winter sitting tomorrow to be turned into a motion of no-confidence.

Prime Minister Bioyamo Netanyahu is scheduled to open the new sitting, in accordance with Knesset tradition, with a political-

diplomatic statement to the country. Most of the Knesset plenum activity for the first week, however, will focus on the first reading of the budget bill.

The announcement by Meretz whip Haim Oron and Labor whip Ra'anana Cohen means that the vote on the premier's statement will be held only the following

week, unless the government instead decides to turn it into a motion of confidence, which would be voted on after the speeches.

"It doesn't matter what Netanyahu says from the podium," Oron said, "because what he really has to say he has whispered already in the ear of Rabbi Kadourie. On the eve of the second anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin we have to

thank Netanyahu for further proof that he hasn't learned anything or changed from his known behavior, which led the incitement up to the assassination." Sheerit in response called on the opposition to conduct the argument on issues on the public agenda in a honorable fashion and not to turn the argument into personal attacks on the prime minister. He said the matters on the agenda are too serious to be used as a means of

getting at someone. Cohen said his party's main goal in the winter session of the Knesset would be to topple Netanyahu's government by democratic means. He also accused Netanyahu of incitement, saying his statement to Kadourie is "behavior not becoming a decent and responsible premier, but that of a populist demagogue speaking from balconies."

**WEATHER**

Half 17-20

Sunny

Tel Aviv 17-20

Jerusalem 15-18

Haifa 17-20

Be'er Sheva 15-18

Forecast: Rise in temperatures.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

	LOW	HIGH	
Amsterdam	04	11	cloudy
Berlin	-01	08	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	24	clear
Cairo	17	25	clear
Chicago	08	09	cloudy
Copenhagen	-01	08	cloudy
Helsinki	00	08	cloudy
Hong Kong	23	27	cloudy
Jakarta	23	31	cloudy
London	10	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	14	22	clear
Madrid	08	16	clear
Manila	23	30	cloudy
Montreal	-05	06	clear
Moscow	09	16	cloudy
New York	04	11	cloudy
Paris	14	19	cloudy
Rome	11	17	clear
Stockholm	-04	01	clear
Tokyo	19	24	clear
Toronto	02	08	cloudy
Vienna	00	07	cloudy
Zurich	00	08	cloudy



Some of an estimated 70,000 breakfasters feast at the world's longest table in Tel Aviv. (Reuters)

## A long breakfast at the beach

By AMBER LANDEAU

The Israeli breakfast has reached new heights, or lengths, as the case may be. Tel Aviv awoke Friday morning to the longest breakfast table in the world. Stretching south 1.8 kilometers from Gordon Beach to the Dolphinarium, the table has secured a place for Israel in *The Guinness Book of Records*. The breakfast buffet included 20 tons of assorted cheeses and nine tons of yogurt. Alfred Jovnissek, Austrian-born executive chef at the Carlton Hotel, stressed the importance of the Israeli breakfast: "Israel's

multinational community has given the Israeli breakfast its richness." An Israeli hotel breakfast typically includes assorted cheeses, fresh vegetables, smoked fish, eggs, and various breads. The event was held under the auspices of the Greater Tel Aviv Chefs Association, the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Tourism Association, and the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality, and was sponsored by Strauss Dairies. "An event like this is good for tourism," said Mayor Ronni Milo. "It gives us worldwide publicity. This is the point of this very special and unique

event." "They should do this every day," proposed Freochman Salomon Gabah, watching the crowd estimated at 70,000 enthusiastically breakfasting on mounds of cheese and yogurt. In less than an hour all the food had disappeared. "We just got here and it's already over," said a surprised South African-born Tamar Israel, who has lived here for the last 20 years. Likening the event to a school of sharks in a feeding frenzy, Lee, a tourist from England, said: "The longest breakfast in the world, maybe, but it could also win for the quickest."

## US: Ease up on Swiss banks

By MARILYN HENRY

As sanctions against the Swiss banks appear to be accelerating in the US, the State Department stepped up its warning against such "punitive measures" and asked that they be lifted.

Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat said "punitive measures" against Swiss banks are counterproductive and ignore that the Swiss "have taken a number of important steps to redress past mistakes and provide assistance to Holocaust survivors." New York City, California, and Massachusetts have taken steps against Swiss financial institutions.

"Sanctions and boycotts, taken after the many steps... to correct past mistakes, have led to a negative reaction in Switzerland," Eizenstat said in a letter to California

State Treasurer Matt Fong, dated October 17. Warning that Switzerland is an important economic partner, Eizenstat said that "boycotts and sanctions run afoul of our efforts to maintain open world markets in financial services... I ask therefore that the State of California lift its sanctions against Swiss financial institutions."

In an interview with Reuters, the spokesman of the Union Bank of Switzerland, Robert Vogler, said: "We find it incomprehensible that this happens at a time when our efforts are becoming more visible. Why take this step now when our efforts are becoming concrete?" In July, the Swiss Bankers Association published lists of thousands of names of foreigners whose war-era bank accounts remain unclaimed. The second list, of Swiss nationals' dormant accounts, is to be published on Wednesday.

## European insurers: Halt Holocaust suit

By PATRICIA VOWINKEL

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Thirteen major European insurers moved on Friday to dismiss a complaint Holocaust victims and their families filed earlier this year in the US, according to federal court documents.

The suit alleges that policies taken out by the victims between 1923 and 1945 were improperly transferred, liquidated or cashed in after being confiscated by the Nazis.

Twelve of the insurers said the federal court in Manhattan does not have jurisdiction over them because they do not do business in New York, according to a joint filing by the defendants.

The other insurer, Assicurazioni Generali, filed to dismiss the complaint for lack-of-subject-matter jurisdiction. For the federal court to have jurisdiction, the plaintiffs' claims must exceed \$75,000 each. Generali, in its motion, said it has located evidence of each of the insurance policies in question and that each is less than \$75,000.

Two other insurers that were named in the complaint - Zurich Insurance Co's Zurich Life Insurance Co and Deutscher Ring Life Insurance Co - did not file motions to dismiss on Friday but may do so at a later date, attorneys

familiar with the case said. The suit seeks class-action certification. The class consists of people who claim to be the policyholders or beneficiaries of life or dowry insurance policies issued by the European insurers in the years in question.

According to the suit, members of the class who were unable to flee the Nazi persecution were arrested and their assets, including insurance policies, were taken by the Nazis.

The suit estimates the class would exceed 10,000 members and seeks billions of dollars in damages to be determined at trial.

Twelve of the insurers named in the suit said they do not conduct business in New York and that the plaintiffs' claims do not arise out of any business that they may have transacted in New York.

Generali said in its motion it located the policies in question, but that they did not meet the guidelines for US court jurisdiction.

"After an extensive search of its archives, Generali has uncovered information with respect to the claims of the Generali plaintiffs," according to the motion. "This information establishes indisputably that none of the Generali plaintiffs has a claim that exceeds \$75,000 exclusive of interest."

## German soldiers probed over neo-Nazi video

By ANNE THOMPSON

BERLIN (AP) - Germany's defense ministry asked prosecutors yesterday to investigate soldiers who performed in a homemade neo-Nazi video in which they give the Hitler salute and talk about killing Jews.

The video, broadcast on television Thursday, is the second controversy in three months linked to the 571st Mountain Infantry battalion based in the eastern German town of Schmeberg. In July, a separate homemade video was discovered of battalion soldiers pretending, in an apparent prank, to carry out rapes and killings in Bosnia.

A defense ministry spokesman said that prosecutors will decide by the end of October whether to prosecute the soldiers who participated in the first video. The incident also was being investigated by a parliamentary defense committee.

In scenes from the recently discovered video, one soldier identifies himself as a Jew and says "I take the German people's money." Soldiers pretend to be neo-Nazis beating someone up, act out homosexual behavior and conduct a mock interview about killing Jews. Background music is played by neo-Nazi bands.

Under investigation are two officers, three non-commissioned officers and three lower-ranking soldiers. Four soldiers were on active duty and four were in the reserves when the video was produced.

The investigation has sparked a debate between the Defense Ministry and the Justice Ministry over screening recruits for right-wing tendencies before they begin mandatory military service.

### Winning cards

In Friday's daily Chance drawing, the winning numbers were the nine of clubs, the 10 of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the jack of spades.

## DC police sued over treatment of Jews at rally

By ELLI WORN GELBERTER

Two young Jewish activists are suing a US police agency for violating their constitutional rights two years ago while demonstrating at the Million Man March in Washington, DC.

Ronni Torossian and Moshe Maoz say their First and Fourth Amendment rights were violated when police prevented them from protesting against organizer Louis Farakhan, tore protest signs from their hands, and searched Maoz. The suit is supported by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The two had picketed the October 1995 march with signs reading "David Duke and Farakhan: Two Sides of the Same Coin." "The Nation of Islam is a Nation of Hate," "Farakhan is a racist," and "Farakhan = David Duke without the sheet."

Torossian said scores of black men surrounded him and Maoz, spitting at them, hurling bottles, and shouting "Hitler should have finished you off" and "We're going to get you. Go home, Jew, go home."

A park policeman told them to leave, because they were inciting a riot, or else they would be arrested, Torossian said. They were demonstrating on behalf of AMCHA, a group led by Rabbi Avi Weiss.

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